Friday, January 4, 2013 ★★ 8 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 29 P18 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ ON MAIL&INQ to 4407 | www.inquirer.net twitter: @inquirerdotnet | Kuya Inquirer 24-7 Hotline twitter: dzIQ990

Landslide kills 25 in South; dozens missing

DEADLY SLIDE This photo released by the Philippine Army shows the extent of Thursday's landslide that hit the small-scale mining community of Pantukan in Compostela Valley. The landslide buried dozens of people months after government officials warned miners that the mountain above them was guaranteed to crumble. PHOTO COURTESY OF 10TH INFANTRY DIVISION, PHILIPPINE ARMY

By Inquirer Mindanao

PANTUKAN, Compostela Valley—It was another environmental nightmare that experts had warned of, yet nobody acted decisively.

Tons of mud from mountainsides crushed an shanties in a sleeping mining community in Barangay Napnapan here before dawn yesterday, killing at least 28 people, including women and children, officials said.

Fifteen people were injured while dozens of others remained missing, according to municipal health officer Arnulfo Lamayo. At least three landslides reportedly occurred in Sitios Diat Uno and Diat Palo.

Col. Lyndon Pantoja, 10th Infantry Division spokesperson, said, "the worst-hit area was in the middle of the community, where there are many shanties." He described the devastation as "enormous."

An aerial survey conducted by the military showed a mud sweep 50 meters wide and 150 meters deep over Diat Uno and Diat Palo.

About 30 square meters of loose earth from Diat Dos fell sharply by 200 meters over Diat Uno, where small miners

LANDSLIDE/ A14

GMA, Lagman feuding

2 ex-AFP chiefs, 9 more top brass face plunder raps

By Marlon Ramos

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice (DOJ) yesterday recommended the filing of plunder charges against retired Armed Forces Chiefs of Staff Diomedio Villanueva and Roy Cimatu, former comptrollers Carlos Garcia and Jacinto Ligot, and seven others accused of diverting and pocketing P12.3 billion in funds intended for troop salaries and combat needs.

Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said the decision of the DOJ panel, led by Prosecutor General Claro Arellano, to pursue legal action against those behind the illegal practice was a stern warning to military officials.

The case stemmed from the revelations of former military budget officer George Rabusa,

LTG.AFP/ A6

IS THIS THE END OF THE LINE? Former President and now detained Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her staunch defender Rep. Edcel Lagman appear to be going their separate ways. Photo taken at the House of Representatives session hall on Oct. 3, 2012. INQUIRER PHOTO

Oust 'plot' vs minority chief includes Arroyo's 3 'travel companions'

By Cynthia D. Balana

IN A SIGN of dissension within the minority bloc in the House of Representatives, Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman yesterday accused former President and Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and some of her allies of plotting to oust him as minority leader.

He described himself as an "ally" of Arroyo but not a "stooge." Lagman claimed the plot to remove him as chief of the 29-strong minority bloc was discussed at an emergency meeting called by Arroyo in her hospital suite at Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City on Wednesday night.

Asked if he was saying that Arroyo was behind the purported plot to oust him as minority leader, Lagman said: "Of course, GMA was the one who called them to the meeting."

He said those present at the meeting were Quezon Rep. Danilo Suarez, Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez and Occidental Mindoro Rep. Amelia Villarosa. He referred to the three as the former President's "constant traveling companions."

GMA, LAGMAN/ A2

Tandang Sora home on her 200th birthday

By Antboth R. Ocampo
Department of History,
Ateneo de Manila University

TWO HUNDRED years ago today, Juan and Valentina Aquino, residents of Barrio Banlat, Baliuag, Caloocan (now

COMMENTARY

Quezon City), picked a name for their newborn daughter from a calendar. Jan. 6, 1812, was the Feast of the Three Kings, whose names are not listed in the Bible

that only describes them as wise men or magi.

However, they have been traditionally known as Gaspar,

TANDANG SORA/ A4

Malchera's 'apo' welcome her home

/ A4

Bear with heavy traffic with 'Bourne Legacy'

By Karen Boncacan and Marinel R. Cruz
Inquirer Luzon

CAR-A-CAR chase really go far in the chaotic, ever-congested streets of Metro Manila? Only in the movies!

Local officials are bracing for some Hollywood-style traffic

MAR/ A15

Senate losing patience, warns House panel

By Christian V. Esguerra and Cathy C. Yumasan

PATIENCE is running low among some members of the Senate impeachment court as prosecutors from the House of Representatives defy the rules by presenting before the media evidence against Chief Justice Renato Corona.

Sen. Gregorio Honasan yesterday warned that sanctions might impose disciplinary action if the prosecutors led by Rep. Niel Tupas Jr. would not abide by the impeachment rule against disclosing to public "the merits of a pending impeachment trial."

"If some senator-judges lose their patience, the prosecution [could be disciplined]," he told the reporters by phone.

Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III was similarly incensed, especially after the House prosecutors came out with a report on another condominium unit supposedly owned by Corona. This time, the story cited a source from

SENATE/ A14

BEHIND THE CLOSED DOOR A sign "Wet vanishing, don't go inside" is placed on the doorknob of Unit 1808 of Bellagio Tower 1 at Bonifacio Global City reported to be owned by Chief Justice Renato Corona. ISRAEL LAPAITAN

DOJ, DILG want Palparan now, double reward to ₱1M

By Marlon Ramos and DJ Yap
in Manila
and Carmela Reyes-Estrope
Inquirer Central Luzon

ONE MILLION pesos in cold cash awaits anyone who can furnish the authorities with information that will lead to the capture of retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan Jr.

"There are good leads in the ongoing search for Palparan, but we want to be very sure. We want this to be over and done with the soonest," Justice Secretary Leila de Lima told reporters yesterday.

"If we let him continue hiding,

DOJ, DILG/ A6

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SUPER LOTTO 6/49
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2 5 9

SIXDIGIT
4 5 8 3 8 6

ENDLUZMIN
5 16 22 26 41 42
P8,480,165.40

SUPER LOTTO 6/49
5 12 15 21 25 42
P43,834,960.00

'Tell Ampatuan to stop it, please'

By Philip C. Tubeza

"MANY have been killed. We're next."

This was one of the last text messages that lawyer Cynthia Oquendo-Ayon sent out in a desperate cry for help just before she was killed with 56 others in the infamous Maguindanao massacre of November 2009, her brother told the court yesterday.

Policeman Raymundo Oquendo, a state witness at the massacre trial being conducted in Bicutan, Taguig, testified that his sister sent text messages to her colleague, lawyer Arnold Delante, on the morning of Nov. 23, 2009, the day of the massacre, and asked him to contact Ampatuan lawyer, Tomas Bidgar III, for help.

"Advise client Ampatuan to stop it, please. We might get killed. Please call Tom," Raymundo recalled one of Cynthia's text messages as saying. He said the "Tom" referred to Tom Bidgar.

"As I understood the message, (it was in) self Bidgar to advise his client Ampatuan to stop firing as they might be killed," Raymundo said.

Cynthia's father, Catalino, was with her in the Maiquadiatu convoy that was ambushed allegedly by the Ampatuan clan, and was also killed in the massacre that followed.

Cynthia sent another text message that said: "Many have been killed. We're next. Tell Tom."

Abandoned MNLF camp

Raymundo said another text message from his sister mentioned an "MNLF Dilaro National Liberation Front camp."

The massacre site in Sitio Masalay, Barangay Salman, Ampatuan town, Maguindanao is now an abandoned MNLF camp.

Raymundo said he read the text messages in Oclarit's cell phone after he rushed to Oclarit's office on the morning of Nov. 23, 2009, after having been told that Cynthia had been "kidnapped."

"(Oclarit) told me that he received text messages from Cynthia just before I arrived ... Oclarit showed me the text messages," Raymundo said.

"When I read the text messages, I felt nervous... shocked to learned that my sister was in danger of being killed," he added. He did not know then that their father was with her.

Raymundo admitted that he did not see the time when the text messages were sent but was sure that it was on the morning of Nov. 23, 2009. The Maguindanao convoy was allegedly stopped in Barangay Salman at around 10 a.m. and the relatives' passengers moved down an hour later.

Defense lawyers, led by Sigfrid Fortun, objected to Raymundo's testifying saying Oclarit's cell phone should have been presented in court.

Presented cellphone

Prosecutor Grace Rula, who conducted Raymundo's direct testimony, later presented in the court a Sony Ericsson cell phone that was supposed to be Cynthia's but it was turned off.

Defense lawyers also objected when Raymundo told the court that Oclarit later informed him that he was able to talk in Pulupur.

Bidgar allegedly said that he was able to contact Norie Unas, the Maguindanao provincial administrator, but Unas said that he could not contact the Ampatuans.

"That's double hearsay," Fortun said.

Five policemen—Abdusalin Abdulgani, Hamad Natin, Esmael Guilal, Omar Romero and Abdullah Baganian—were arraigned in yesterday's hearing for their alleged participation in the massacre. They pleaded not guilty to the 57 counts of murder filed against them.

Accused rose to 69

With the arraignment of the five policemen, the number of those formally accused in the case has risen to 69. The government has so far captured only 93 of the 196 suspects in the case.

Meanwhile, the jail guards at the Quezon City Jail Annex in Camp Bagong Diwa, Bicutan, prevented newsmen from taking pictures inside the jail compound before the hearing started, drawing protests from members of the media.

The jail guards said it was a new policy to improve security in the jail compound. The hearing next week will be held at the Quezon City hall of justice.

Luisita farmers want land conversion nixed

By Kristine L. Alave

FARM workers of Hacienda Luisita, the sugarcane plantation owned by Cojuangco relatives of President Aquino, yesterday asked the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to revoke the conversion order granted to the estate's owners 15 years ago.

The Alyansa ng mga Manggagawang Bukid sa Hacienda Luisita (Ambala), one of the farm unions in the estate, said the Cojuangcos had violated the terms and conditions of the order and that the 500 hectares covered by the conversion order has remained undeveloped and agricultural.

"It is clear that (RJ) Hacienda Luisita Inc.) had no intention of developing or converting the 500 hectares subject of the DAR conversion order. But instead of developing the [land], pursuant to their undertaking in the application for conversion, it merely caused them to be transferred to other locally-owned corporations of the Cojuangcos—Lipco, Centenary and LRC," the group's petition to the DAR stated.

The conversion order was granted in 1996 and covered 500 hectares of the vast sugar estate. Ambala, through its counsel, Atty. Jose Jesus Tinay III, Representing Agrarian, maintained that the Cojuangco family applied for conversion to avoid the distribution of land as mandated by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law.

"Clearly there is no other purpose for the transfer of ownership of the 500 hectares but to take the 500 hectares out of the coverage of the agrarian reform program. The transfer of ownership, which was also without the prior knowledge and approval of the DAR, is a clear violation of the conversion order," it stated.

Gov't wants cases vs GMA merged

By TJ Burgonio

SPECIAL prosecutors of the Office of the Ombudsman are seeking the consolidation of the cases against former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and three others before Election Chair Benjamin Abalos and former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri that had to do with the $329-million NBN-ZTE deal.

The prosecutors argued before the Sandiganbayan that all the cases involved the Department of Transportation and Communications (formerly the Philippine government and the Xiong Ding Telecommunications Equipment Inc. (ZTE) for the implementation of the National Broadband Network (NBN), and that a consolidation would expedite their resolution.

"The consolidation of these cases is in accordance with the particular behavioral pattern of the duties of cases, which is to promote a more expeditious and less expensive resolution of the controversy than if they were heard independently by separate divisions of the Honorable Sandiganbayan," they said in their motion to the Fifth Division.

The prosecutors said the graft case against Neri pending with the Fifth Division should be consolidated with the graft case against Abalos and the string of charges against Arroyo, and three others, all pending with the Fourth Division.

The motion was signed by Deputy Special Prosecutor John D.C. Serafin, Prosecution Bureau 5 acting director Omar Sagadal and Assistant Special Prosecutors III Joefflaire B. Tin-Ao and Maximo Jesualdo E. Carreon.

The Ombudsman also last week filed one count of graft against Arroyo, her husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, Abalos and former Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza, and another count of graft and violation of the code of conduct and ethical standards for public officials against Arroyo.

The charges were in connection with the approval of the double land Terms loaned to be overpriced and direct vantagerous to the government, and/or unwarranted.

Correction

In YSE, JAN. 5 ISSUE, the front-page banner story—"Senate slams Senate panel"—carried an erroneous byline. The story was written by Cathy C. Yamsuan and Marlon Ramos—not Cynthia D. Balana.

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the City Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer (4th Building), Chino Roces Avenue corner Shaw Blvd., Makati City, fax No. 893-9589, e-mail address: dailyinq@inquirer.net

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Corona asked to produce SALN if he's innocent

By TJ Burgonio

A CIVIC group yesterday challenged Chief Justice Renato Corona to produce his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) to show proof that he could afford to buy the luxury condominium that impeachment prosecutors claim he owned.

The Kaya Natin! Movement for Good Governance and Ethical Leadership and Corona, who was impeached by the House of Representatives and is to go on trial in the Senate on Jan. 16, had failed to respond to an request for a copy of the latter SALN.

Corona's failure to disclose his SALN is among the key charges used by the House justice committee in filing an impeachment complaint against him.

"We're disappointed primarily because this is an opportunity that we're getting here to show to the public that 'Hey, I'm not hiding anything from you, I'm willing to show everything I have, and I'm unaware of the charges by any document," said Kaya Natin lead convener Harvey Keh.

P14M condo unit

House prosecutors alleged in a press conference this week that Corona and his wife had purchased in 2006 a P14.5-million condo unit at the Megaworld Taguig Bellagio development in the Fort Bonifacio Global City.

"If he (Corona) can afford the condo, he should show proof by disclosing his SALN," Keh said.

The disclosure of the SALNs by the high court justices is very important because this would "send a strong signal to the public that they have nothing to hide, and are willing to be held accountable as public officials," Keh said.

If the President deems it, even lower court officials are required to disclose their SALN, why can't the justices? he said.

Kaya Natin! requested the high court justices to disclose their SALNs in a letter-letter filed with the Clerk of Court last Dec. 29. It also sought their permission to upload their SALN on its website.

So far, only Associate Justices Antonio Carpio and Maria Lourdes Sereno have responded and furnished Kaya Natin! with a summary of their SALNs.

Associate Justice Teresita J. Leonardo-De Castro, Presbitero Velasco and Marianito Dela Cruz-De responded to the letter but they were refusing the matter to the Supreme Court en banc which is set to deliberate on the disclosure of the SALN by justices and judges.

Associate Justice Roberto Abad wrote a lengthy reply explaining the legal ramifications of such a request, and the court's guidelines on the release of such SALNs.

Declaration under oath

He said the Constitution requires public officers to submit a declaration under oath of their SALN, and nothing more. He said he has been complying with this by submitting his SALN to the Supreme Court through the Clerk of Court.

The public's right to know about the assets, liabilities and net worth of public officials, among others, is recognized by Republic Act No. 6713, but this is subject to limitations, Abad said.

All requests for the SALN have to be filed with the Clerk of Court, he said; they request may, however, be denied if it's traced to a litigant, lawyer or any interested party or if found to have been made without good faith and legitimate purpose except to file the information, among other grounds, Abad said.

He said he had no objection to the release of his SALN, subject to the high court's approval.

Keh, the director for youth leadership and social entrepreneurship of the Ateneo School of Government, said he hoped that the other justices would agree to Kaya Natin!'s request by Jan. 9. He said he would appeal to them again if they fail to do so by that date.

Slaughter of pangolin, green turtles in Palawan exposed

LARGE shipments of seacucumber and turtle parts were seized in the southwestern province of Palawan earlier this week in what authorities said was an indication that the illegal trade in the endangered animals was booming.

Most 27 kilogrammes (59 pounds) of Philippine pangolin, or anteaters, about to be smuggled to Manila in gray metal vans confiscated on Wednesday at Puerto Princesa City Airport, said Abu Marundin, an environment official.

Two days earlier, 95 kg (209 lb) of pangolin scales and 98.3 kg (208 lb) of sources from endangered hawksbill and green turtles were seized at the same airport, Marundin said.

Monday's shipment, which had a market value of nearly P1 million ($23,000), was misdeclared as dried fish.

Chinese delicacy

Pangolin is a Chinese delicacy its scales are used in Chinese traditional medicine.

Scutes—the plates that cover turtle shells—are used in decorative pictures and other products.

According to Marundin, traders may be increasingly hunting their attention in Palawan, home to many exotic wildlife, for pangolin meat because the animal's population has been vanishing in other parts of Southeast Asia due to hunting and deforestation.

The International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN) said during demand for pangolins, mostly from mainland China, and has been were wiping out the unique land-dwelling animators from their forest habitats in Southeast Asia.

International ban

The animals are protected by laws in many Asian countries, and an international ban on their trade has been in effect since 2000. But these measures have had little impact on the illicit trade, according to the IUCN.

The IUCN lists the Philippine pangolin, which is endemic to Palawan, as close to becoming a threatened species.

But Marundin, who is from the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, said the powers were considered the smallest a threatened species because of the continuing illegal trade.

He said the strict monitoring of trading in live pangolins may have prompted traders in Sulu to smuggle them as meat and medicine.

A kilogram (2.2 lb) of pangolin scales sells for P5,000 ($114).

The same traders may be behind the two shipments, Marundin said, adding that no arrests had been made and the investigation was ongoing.

The shipper of Wednesday's haul left the range with an airport porter, while Monday's shipment, which was found for Cebu City, were through a courier company he said. AP

ILLEGAL TRADE BOOMING In this photo provided by the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, an environment officer marks stacks of confiscated pangolin (anteater) meat at Puerto Princesa City Airport on Wednesday.

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WHAT WENT BEFORE

ON MAY 3, 2011, customs officials in Metro Manila blocked an attempt to smuggle out of the country P31-million worth of black corals, seashells and sea turtles.

An inventory showed that 465 stuffed hawksbills and green turtles; 22,500 pieces of black corals; 7,140 pieces of Triangle and Giant clam shells; and 1,104 kg of sea whips—all threatened species that cannot be cultivated or traded were loaded into two container vans that were declared to be filled with rubber.

Court expert Gary Williams of the California Academy of Sciences examined that the area damaged due to the harvesting of the black corals could reach up to 190.8 square kilometers.

Xiaoqiu Xiaowen was identified as the consignee of the shipment which left Guiyang province on April 29, 2011, while the alleged shipper of the contraband was Zamboanga-based Li and Lin Trading owned by Olivia Lin Li. Both Xiaowen and Li never showed up on June 3, 2011, with illegally harvesting black corals and endangered marine species and were placed on the immigration watch list.

Accused flee

Li's husband, Joe Peng, also known as Joe Ong, a Taiwanese, had been charged in 2007 after authorities found and seized endangered species of sea turtles in a warehouse operated by Lin Yuan Trading which he owns.

The Li couple could not be found since they were charged and placed on the immigration watch list.

In a Senate hearing on June 13, 2011, Senator Jinggoy Estrada, chairman of the Senate committee on committee investigating the smuggling case that the Li couple had taken a Cebu Pacific flight from Zamboanga City to Manila and a Cebu Pacific connecting flight to Hong Kong on June 7.

Reports said Barbaza and policewomen secured the services of agents on the Li couple at their residences in Zamboanga City on June 10, but they failed to locate them.

Then Customs Commissioner Angelito Alvarez said the illegal trade in black corals is being fueled by the demand of the multibillion-dollar tourism ornamental industry for exotic decorative species and the increasing popularity of coral-accessed jewelry and fashion accessories.

The law prohibits any person or corporation to gather, possess, sell or export ordinary, precious and unprecious corals whether in raw or in processed form. The penalty ranges from six months to two years and a fine of as much as P500,000.

Also charged in the complaint filed in the Department of Justice were Li, Aulleon, owner of the Zamboanga-based JBA Transport System, the cargo forwarding company tapped by the shipper, Ivanco Sendiar and unidentified employees of the Manila-based JBA Transport System; and the officers-owners of Nikky's Forwarding, the company which transported the misdeclared cargo from the shipper's warehouse to the port of Zamboanga. —San Rosa, Inquirer Research

source: Inquirer Archives

For Your Store Display Needs
Store Display Fixtures
Store Picture and Shoe Fittings
Store Display Accessories
Retail Display System
DISPLAYTECH

New shrine in birthplace welcomes Melchora

By Julie Pi-Barrella

WHEN Jesusa Melchora Aquino, aka Tandang Sora, comes "home" today to a new shrine built in her honor in Bagbag, Quezon City, all that will be placed there are three small pieces of her bones.

But even if her bones are merely a symbolic dust, her descendants vow to honor her legacy and value even more fervently.

"We involve the younger generation in our activities so that she will not be forgotten by our children and grandchildren. We want them to remember her selflessness by living it," said Josephine Severino, a fourth-generation descendant and president of the Grandchildren of Melchora Aquino Association.

Government stood as witness as the city government yesterday formally received the remains of Tandang Sora which were exhumed at Kinalapong Pilipino, a private cemetery along with other personal effects such as pieces of broken glass and the handle of her coffin.

"There were no longer any big bones left. Perhaps what remained came from the skull," said the city health officer, Dr. Antonieta Inumerable, who witnessed the exhumation.

The recovered bones and artifacts were sealed inside a wooden casket less than two feet long, and brought on a funeral to city hall, where a jeepney led by Mayor Herbert Bautista and Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte graced the solemn ceremony.

The hearse arrived in the late afternoon as a brass band played and a choir sang in rehearsal. Among the hundreds of onlookers were Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte who stayed after office hours just to catch a glimpse of the relics.

The remains were to stay at city hall for an overnight vigil, prior to their transfer today to the newly constructed Tandang Sora Shrine in Barangay Bagbag, the heroine's birthplace.

Family's request

It was only fitting that she would be brought back to Bagbag today, the 200th anniversary of her birth, said Nilda Sioson, the city mayor's chief of staff.

Tandang Sora's family requested that her remains be transferred to Bagbag during the term of Bautista's predecessor, Feliciano Belmonte Jr. It was Belmonte who in 2006 signed the administration get Kinalapong Pilipino's consent.

The oldest surviving great-grandchild is 93-year-old Isabela Rosas, according to the organization's secretary Benita Reyes, who came to yesterday's rites with a scrapbook containing photocopied pictures of Tandang Sora, including a grainy shot taken on her wedding day.

Tandang Sora home on her 200th birthday

Turn to page A11

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Don't go to Syria, DOLE appeals to OFWs

By Jerome Aning

Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz yesterday appealed anew to Filipinos intending to work overseas to consider not going to Syria because of the continuing civil unrest in that country.

This followed a report from labor attaché Angel Borjen in the Syrian capital of Damascus stating that illegally recruited and laid-off Filipino women continue to arrive in the embattled Middle Eastern country despite the deployment ban, "in effect refusing those being repatriated by the Philippine government."

"I urge our OFWs who intend to go to Syria not to, particularly if the part of the country they are supposed to work in is engulfed in civil strife," Baldoz said in a statement.

"If you remain in the country, the government could better protect you. It will also minimize the social cost of being away from your family and from your homeland and eliminate other possible expenses needed to safely bring you home if you are caught in distress situation," she added.

Stay put

Baldoz told the OFWs who have returned to the Philippines from Syria to stay put, claiming that there are jobs and other reintegration employment opportunities for them in the country, where the pay could be even greater than their salaries as domestic service workers in Syria.

She said the ongoing Second Reintegration Program provides returning OFWs with the necessary assistance to ease their return to the country. Under the program, returning OFWs can avail of a loan assistance, collateral-free loan offered under the P2-billion OFW Reintegration Loan Fund, from a low of P500,000 to a maximum of P5 million for new or existing businesses.

Start-up capital

There is also the Balik-Pinoy Balik Hanapbuhay Program for distressed women OFWs, which provides a P10,000 livelihood/business development assistance to returning women OFWs.

The P10,000 is meant to be the start-up capital for any kind of livelihood undertaking, which could be a trading or general merchandise sales/dealership, neighborhood store, agribusiness, food service, services, e-load station, and production or manufacturing.

Baldoz also said the repatriation of OFWs from Syria is continuing, with the repatriation of 316 OFWs being finalized, and that of 447 being negotiated by the government with their host employers.

Citing Bodjo's report, Baldoz said that a total of 361 OFWs have already been repatriated since the government declared an alert level 3 crisis status for Syria on Aug. 17, 2011. Of this number, only 37 were documented as regular workers.

On Dec. 22, the Department of Foreign Affairs raised the alert level in Syria to alert level 4, requiring mandatory repatriation.

Baldoz said that 1,320 OFWs seeking repatriation have registered with the Philippine Embassy in Syria, including 133 undocumented workers.

Cost of repatriation

But she said that despite the intensified efforts of the embassy and labor officials to inform the OFWs of the government's offer of mandatory repatriation, the incompatibilities between "mutual."

She said the funding for the mandatory repatriation is being drawn from the assistance to Nationals Standby Fund of the DFA. The deployment ban related to the OFWs' Syrian employers ranges between $2,500 to $3,000 per OFW the agency (residency permit) and other administrative penalties are placed at $3,000 and either at $600 per person.

The Philippine Embassy in Syria has estimated that there are 14,927 OFWs in Syria, but only 1,432 of them are documented, according to the report from Borjen of the Philippine Overseas Labor Office in Damascus.

From March to Dec. 27, 2011, 434 OFWs have been repatriated, while 148 more OFWs are currently being at the Philippine Workers Resource Center.

Citing the same report, Baldoz said that except for the cities of Homs, Idlib and Deir Ezzor where violent clashes are raging between Syrian forces and protesters, the rest of Syria "has been largely untouched by the unrest as the Syrian regime remains intact and in control. Most of the OFWs are located in Damascus and Aleppo.

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Per CAB approval

Bangkok now dry; travel is safe–DFA

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs (DFA) has lifted its Oct. 29 advisory against taking nonessential travel to Bangkok, noting that the floods in the Thai capital and nearby areas have receded.

In a statement, the DFA yesterday said "central Bangkok remains dry and all popular destinations and areas are mainly considered by the floods."

Drawing attention to a report of the Flood Relief Operations Center in Bangkok, the foreign office said, "The floods have now mainly receded and the government has started to downsize the FROC."

Philippine nationals "may now undertake travels to Bangkok," the DFA concluded.

In May 2010, the agency issued an advisory warning against trips to Thailand due to the "continuing violence" in the Southeast Asian country.

The Thai government was then engaged in a deadly crackdown against antigovernment "Red Shirt" protests that ended in late May, leaving nearly 90 people dead and some 2,000 wounded.

A month later, the DFA lifted the advisory, citing improved peace and order situation in the Thai capital.

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RxER

Upon the direction of **President Benigno S. Aquino III**, the Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Electrification Administration(NEA) in partnership with the Electric Cooperatives (ECs) and with full support of the Department of Budget and Management accomplished the electrification of 1,520 sitios in 90 days. The NEA-EC Teams completed their targets in close coordination with the LGUs, local communities and the private sector.

The Sitio Electrification Program is in line with the 10 point agenda of the Aquino Administration.

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- Significant and focused economic investment and intervention in the remote rural areas

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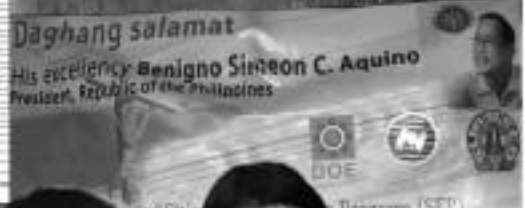
Target : 1,410 sitios
Actual : 1,520 sitios

Improving Lives in the Rural Areas Through Electrification

SITIO ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAM

REGION	PROVINCE	ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE	ACCOMPLISHMENT	
			SITIO	HH
I	Ilocos Norte	INEC	12	1,200
	Ilocos Sur	ISECO	5	500
	La Union	LUELCO	3	300
	Pangasinan	PANELCO III	1	100
		Subtotal	21	2,100
II	Batanes	BATANELCO	1	100
	Cagayan	CAGELCO II	2	200
	Isabela	ISELCO II	1	100
	Nueva Vizcaya	NUVELCO	1	100
		Subtotal	5	500
III	Aurora	AURELCO	1	100
	Bataan	BATELEC II	1	100
	Nueva Ecija	NEECO II - Area 1	1	100
	Pampanga	PELCO III	1	100
	Tarlac	TARELCO II	1	100
	Zambales	ZAMECO II	1	100
		Subtotal	6	600
CAR	Abra	ABRECO	1	100
	Benguet	BENECO	1	100
	Mt. Province	MOPRECO	1	100
		Subtotal	3	300
IV-A	Batangas	BATELEC II	1	100
	Laguna	LEC	1	100
	Quezon	QUEZELCO II	1	100
		Subtotal	3	300
IV-B	Occidental Mindoro	OMECO	1	100
	Oriental Mindoro	ORMECO	1	100
	Palawan	PALECO	1	100
	Romblon	ROMELCO	1	100
		Subtotal	4	400
V	Albay	ALECO	1	100
	Camarines Norte	CANORECO	1	100
	Camarines Sur	CASURECO II	1	100
	Masbate	MASELCO	1	100
	Sorsogon	SORECO II	1	100
		Subtotal	5	500
		TOTAL LUZON	48	4,400
VI	Aklan	AKELCO	1	100
	Antique	ANTECO	1	100
	Capiz	CAPELCO	1	100
	Negros Occ.	NOCECO	1	100
		Subtotal	4	400
VII	Bohol	BOHECO II	1	100
	Cebu	CEBECO III	1	100
	Negros Or.	NORECO II	1	100
		Subtotal	3	300
VIII	Biliran	BILECO	1	100
	Leyte	LEYECO II	1	100
	Samar	SAMELCO II	1	100
		Subtotal	3	300
		TOTAL VISAYAS	10	1,000
IX	Zamboanga Sib.	ZAMSIBELCO	1	100
	Zamboanga Sur	ZAMSURECO II	1	100
		Subtotal	2	200
X	Bukidnon	CAMELCO	1	100
	Camiguin	CAMELEC	1	100
	Lanao Norte	LANECO	1	100
	Misamis Occ.	MOCELCO II	1	100
	Misamis Or.	MORESCO II	1	100
		Subtotal	5	500
XI	Davao Del Sur	DASURECO	1	100
	Davao Or.	DORECO	1	100
		Subtotal	2	200
XII	Cotabato	COTELCO	1	100
	S. Cotabato	SOCOTECO II	1	100
	Sultan Kudarat	SUKELCO	1	100
		Subtotal	3	300
ARMM	Maguindanao	MAGUINDANAO	1	100
		Subtotal	1	100
CARAGA	Agusan Del N.	ANECO	1	100
	Agusan Del S.	ASELCO	1	100
	Surigao Del N.	SURNECO	1	100
	Surigao Del S.	SURSECO II	1	100
	Dinagat Isl.	DIELCO	1	100
		Subtotal	5	500
		TOTAL MINDANAO	21	2,100
		GRAND TOTAL	1,520	152,000
		Percent Accomplishment	100%	100%

HC - Household Connections



President Benigno S. Aquino III and Secretary Rene D. Almendras,

We pledge our unconditional support and active involvement in the execution of your social contract with the Filipino people by translating the "tuwid na daan" through which we can serve them best by way of rural electrification.

GMA, Lagman feuding over minority post

From page A1

across to under-hospital arrest while facing charges of sabotaging the 2007 senatorial elections to favor her administration's candidates. She denies the charges.

Reached for comment, Suarez cited what he said were a series alarming agreements the minority has been entering into in 2011 and that Lagman was reminded of it last month. The Bicolano tried to reach the two other lawmakers but could not contact them.

A statement issued by Lagman's office said: "GMA and her cronies traveling to countries known to host pan-foreign trips are plotting to replace Minority leader Edcel C. Lagman with Quezon Rep. Danilo Suarez."

The statement said: "Although Lagman is perceived to be an ally of GMA in the opposition, he is not a GMA stooge and does not necessarily see her leading."

It continued later: For the business, Lagman said that although he worked closely with Arroyo in Congress, he remained "independent-minded" and was "never part of her inner circle."

"Maybe Suarez could be more malleable," he said.

Lagman's claim

Lagman belongs to Lakas, while Suarez and the two lawmakers belong to Arroyo's Kampi.

Lagman, in his press release, insisted the term-sharing agreement was limited to the speakership position should the Lakas-Kampi-CMD coalition win the House leadership but it did not extend to the minority leader post.

He said that agreeing to term-sharing for the minority leadership would have sent definitive signals to the others since Lakas-Kampi would be fighting for the speakership.

Lagman also said news accounts at the time confirmed the limited extent of the agreement. He also said that "an absolute majority of the minority members" had signed a resolution reiterating him as minority leader for his "responsible and credible alternate design of governance."

Told that the Arroyo camp had said, through spokesperson Elena Bautista-Horn, that they "have nothing to do" with the minority leadership issue, Lagman said, "That's impossible that they didn't know anything. Pinagsama sila ni GMA (GMA rolled in the agreement) dun sa pagpapalit ng liderato."

"What I think is that it's a deeper alliance with Danny Suarez who used to be a member of the Commission of 1986," Lagman said. "From the very start, I was not close to GMA... I was never part of her inner circle. Unlike Arroyo, Bautistadora and Villarosa, the three traveling companions."

Suarez's version

Asked why Arroyo would want him most of all, Lagman said that "she is unable to appreciate quality and commitment."

Suarez, for his part, recalled that at the end of the House session in December, he approached Lagman to ask if the latter had any last-minute instructions for him and if there were any bills he wanted pushed.

He said he was surprised and "offended" when Lagman told him that the other terms of the leadership should first be exhausted on the timeline of the group's agreement.

"I'm very sad that it had to go this far," Suarez told the Inquirer.

"I would not ask for it if there was no agreement. Medyo inquisitive ako (I was embarrassed). The fact is there was an agreement that he refused to honor. If 'Yan Lang ako, I would not do that to him if there was no such agreement. Hindi naman ako ganyan (I'm not that kind of person)."

Suarez said 19 minority members met last month to discuss the matter and that "after the meeting, all 19 approached both of us and said they should honor the term-sharing agreement."

"But Edcel said, 'Hindi naman siya kumpiso-sir' (But not all of us are liars)," Suarez said.

The minority bloc consists of 20 lawmakers.

Showdown in July?

Asked if he would force the issue in July during the election for the House minority leadership, Suarez said he hoped things would be settled by then. He said he and the other minority members would let Lagman know in writing their wish that he relinquish the minority leader post.

"I've been very satisfied with the way Edcel has been handling the minority for the last year and a half. But an agreement is an agreement. He should honor it," Suarez stressed.

But Lagman pointed out that the opposition caucus had December that Suarez was referring to opted not to take a vote on the minority leadership issue owing to the absence of many members and that the proceeding statement was tied to lifting the ceasa to a vote.

6-term congressman

A six-term congressman and former human rights lawyer, Lagman is chair of Lakas-CMD and vice president of Centrist Democratic International (CDI), a worldwide organization of Christian and Muslim political parties. He used to chair the House committees on appropriations, justice, agrarian reform and revenue matters at. Suarez.

Lagman's press release said he had also been recognized "for articulating alternative and critical views on relevant issues, like good governance, human rights, the rule of law, agrarian reform, the budget and the economy."

2 ex-AFP chiefs, 9 more top brass face plunder raps

From page A1

who testified in a Senate inquiry last year about the mission's release (acquitted) and scandalous performance (still) for targeting and accusing AFP chiefs of staff. (See **What Went Before** on this page.)

"This should really be a flesh-and-and a clean slate for the current AFP leadership under the Aquino administration," De Ulloa said in a news briefing.

At least three military officers on the DOJ list are in active service, including Brig. Gen. Benito de Leon.

Asked if the filing of the criminal charge was a warning to military officials, De Ulloa replied: "You can call it that. I like to believe that there is the rank-and-file and ordinary soldiers are not involved in the crime."

Open secret

"It's an open secret that these anomalies happen within the AFP where millions and millions of pesos were involved in the irregular titles," he added.

In a 105-page resolution, the three members panel of prosecutors said there was a "semblance of truth" to Subaan's allegations that the accused had conspired with one another in pilfering from the AFP coffers.

"We are convinced that the AFP's budget had been plundered during the period marked by the commissioning," read a portion of the DOJ resolution.

"In the instant case, complainant's previous illustration of the 'rampant irregularities in the AFP' relative to the malversation, misuse and misappropriation of its funds, appears to have a semblance of truth," it added.

Subaan claimed Villanueva could have earned over P107 million from the conversion of military funds. Gimata pocketed around P146 in his brief stay as AFP chief, he said. Gimata, who served as special envoy to the Middle East after retiring from the military and Malacañang has denied receiving any payoff.

Subaan said Ligot made about P500 million while Garcia, jailed for another graft case, took some P366 million.

Others to recommended to be charged were retired Brig. Gen. Eliador Ibrahim, retired Colonels Carlo Bonoto and Ben Dorron, reservists Col. Erasmo Susano, Lt. Commanding division chief Leonardo del Castillo and former Base Andrew Cristina Calderon.

What, if not all, of the concerned respondents had admitted to the existence of the OPH (Operating Program and Budget) as a necessary of implementing lump sum appropriations made by the Philippine Congress of the AFP budget," the DOJ panel said.

The panel said it appeared that it was through the amalgamation of the (military budget), through the OPH, "that respondents officers of the AFP could use necessary AFP funds from the purposes that are different from their original allocations."

11 others absolved

However, the panel of prosecutors absolved 11 others of complicity, saying there was no sufficient evidence to include them as accused. Cleared were former AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu, retired Lt. Gen. Constancio Pangilinan, retired Major Generals Epimaco Lopino and Ernesto Boac, Navy Capt. Bernardo Pagkalinawan, Col. Gilbert Gapay and Maj. Gen. Jose Calimlim.

The DOJ panel also dismissed the case against Col. Rober Arevalo and former State Auditor Adrian Sisenia, Cesario Gabriel and Manuel Warren.

A known close associate of Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, Boac is currently the budget officer of the Department of National Defense. Pangilinan, on the other hand, was appointed by President Aquino as director of the Bureau of Corrections.

De Lima, however, clarified that the DOJ resolution was still subject to review by the Office of the Ombudsman, the only government agency mandated to file graft and corruption cases in the Sandiganbayan.

"Since this is a plunder case, the final say would fall on the Ombudsman. This is correct. It recommendatory," the justice secretary said, adding that her department would immediately transmit the documents regarding the case to the ombudsman.

"It is up to the Ombudsman (if it wants to) adopt, modify or reverse the resolution. It's up to the Ombudsman to decide or determine whether there is a need for another preliminary investigation," De Lima added.

In his complaint, Subaan accused five respondents of converting "commercial vouchers" of the Intelligence Service of the AFP (Isafp) and "IO" (Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence) into cash.

He said the money, supposedly intended for intelligence projects of the AFP was illegally diverted for cash allocations of the Office of the Chief of Staff, monthly cash incentives of some senior military officials, administrative related expenses and for personal expenses of some of the respondents.

Exacting accountability

Gazmin for comment. Subaan said he was "both happy and sad" about the resolution of the DOJ panel.

"I'm happy because, while not all of the respondents could be charged, at least officials who I expected to be included (in the complaint) were there," the soldier-lawyer told the Inquirer over the phone.

"I'm somewhat sad because not all of them were charged, but as my lawyer said, we could still appeal the DOJ recommendation to the Office of the Ombudsman," he said.

"But I respect the decision of the DOJ panel. At least, we know that we now have a process for exacting accountability(.)"

With a report from AP

WHAT WENT BEFORE

ON JAN. 27, 2011, retired Lt. Col. George Rabusa disclosed a multimillion fund scam in the military while testifying in the Senate blue ribbon committee's inquiry into the plan to give battered state prosecutors and heroes' military compensation (Carlos Garcia).

Rabusa, who served as budget chief of the Office of the Armed Forces' Deputy Chief of Staff for Comptrollership from December 1998 until 2002, revealed how it had become a tradition for senior military officers to receive a package of millions of pesos.

Rabusa said that when Angelo Reyes retired as Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff in 2003, he received a total of P150 million from the AFP funds—broken down into a portion of "not less than" P50 million on his retirement, and the P5 million he received each month during his 28 months as the AFP chief of staff.

The whistle-blower also said that previous incumbents benefited former AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hiro, and allowed former AFP Chiefs of Staff Generoso Villanueva and Roy Cimatu to take home a total of P227.4 million and P118 million, respectively, by the time they retired.

In his testimony, Rabusa admitted that he himself had pocketed money from military funds given that he helped his boss, Garcia, "convert" almost P7 billion from 2001 to 2002 for distribution to ranking officers and other recipients outside the AFP.

Rabusa said the money came mainly from the annual military short fund of P480 million, known as the provisions for command-directed activities, and allocations from the government's secret budget of the military.

Pinpin denied the allegations against him and filed graft charges against Rabusa in the Office of the Ombudsman. Villanueva and Cimatu also vehemently denied the allegations.

Based by controversy, Reyes committed suicide on Feb. 8.

Shah's fund

In a succeeding hearing, Rabusa said the AFP chiefs of staff as well as other officers also had a slush fund of P70 million for their personal operational use. The fund was reportedly allocations obtained off the salaries and operational expenses of military units.

Also brought up were the unexplained salary of former military comptroller Jacinto Ligot and his wife, Felinda, in the country and in the United States.

The Senate hearings prompted the Bureau of Internal Revenue to file in the Department of Justice (DOJ) multimillion-peso tax evasion complaints against Ligot and Ligot, and their sisters, in March.

Plunder complaints

In April, Rabusa filed plunder complaints against various military officials for their alleged involvement in the military fund scam. The main respondents were Abu, Villanueva and Cimatu. Ligot and Garcia.

Along with his complaint, Rabusa presented to the DOJ some 20 folders containing pieces of evidence, such as receipts, checks and other documents. In press, he said, less money was released during the tenures of Abu, Villanueva and Cimatu. **Inquirer Research**

Source: Inquirer Archives

DOJ, DILG want Palparan now, double reward to ₱1M

From page A1

the chances of arresting him become slimmer. He may slip out of the country," she said in Filipino.

De Lima said she and Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo decided to double the reward money to hasten the arrest of the fugitive former military official, who has not been seen in public since he and three others were charged two weeks ago with the kidnapping of University of the Philippines students Sherlyn Cadapan and Karen Empeño.

De Lima said that the case for Palparan's arrest was the government's "completeness" since the joint standard operations of the Philippine National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation.

PNP Director General Nicasio Bartolome said in an interview there was no information on Palparan's whereabouts but teacher teams were pursuing the lead.

Action withheld

De Lima earlier said that Palparan had been evading "lawful" for his surrender, but efforts to actually take him into custody proved futile.

Palparan has been charged with kidnapping and serious illegal detention for his supposed role in the disappearance of Empeño and Cadapan, who have been missing since 2006.

Charged with Palparan are Lt. Col. Felipe Anderson Jr. and SG Spt. Rizal Hilario of the 56th Infantry Battalion; Cpl. Edgardo Osorio; Pfc. Bhagsaying Warren Rafin; privates first (CPLs) Edgardo Osorio, who was assigned to the Army's 24th Intelligence and Security Group in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Anderson and Osorio have surrendered to the authorities. Palparan and Hilario remain at large.

Palparan has been tagged by activists as a "berdugo" (butcher) for his purported role in extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances of activists.

The Bulacan judge handling the kidnapping cases has said she could not act on a motor on on omnibus motion filed by Palparan and his counsel seeking the recall of the arrest warrants and the suspension of the proceedings against them.

Hearing on Feb. 6

In an order released on Monday, Judge Ibrahim Gonzales of Bulacan Regional Trial Court Branch 14 said the court had no jurisdiction yet over Palparan and Hilario because they have yet to surrender or be arrested.

"Considering that (Palparan and Hilario) are still at large, the court has no jurisdiction over the persons of said accused; the court declared that the omnibus motion concerning them will not be acted upon on but they are arrested or they voluntarily surrender," Gonzales said.

He set for Feb. 6 the next hearing of the case involving Palparan, Hilario and 11 respective comrades and other pleadings.

Gonzales also asked the lawyers of Anderson and Osorio to comment within 10 days from Monday on the Department of Justice's motion for the court to reconsider its Dec. 23 decision transferring them to the military's custody.

The justice department wants Anderson and Osorio, who were briefly held at the Bulacan provincial jail, detained at the PNP headquarters in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

Demand for justice

Palparan was last seen in public last Dec. 19 when Bureau of Immigration personnel at Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in the Clark Freeport stopped him from boarding a plane for Singapore, citing his indictment on the justice department's watch list.

During Monday's court hearing, members of a group supporting the families of Empeño and Cadapan gathered in front of the court with placards demanding swift justice for the two missing students.

About 100 members of Desaparecidos Pamilya ng Desaparecidos para sa Katarungan) appealed to the court to reconsider its decision placing Anderson and Osorio under military custody.

"We believe that they (Anderson and Osorio) should be put in a regular detention facility without any special treatment," Concepcion Empeño and Alfredo Cadapan, the mothers of the missing students, said in a joint statement.

"We continue to ask the Filipino nation to join us in the people's manhunt for Palparan and Hilario. If we let human rights violators walk free, more violations can happen in our country," they said.

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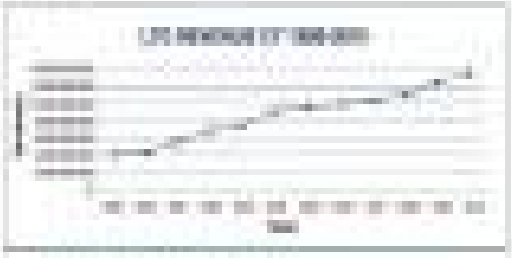

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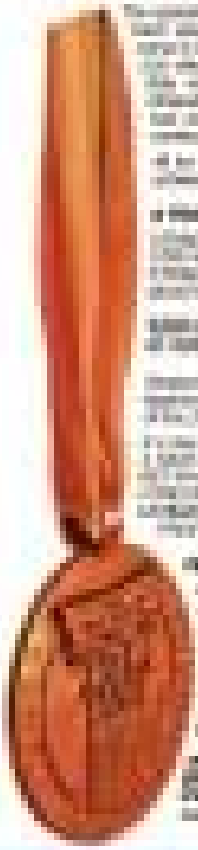

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

One lucky guy

EDITORIAL

RENATO CORONA must be one very lucky guy. First in the order in which the public got to know about it) Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo installed him into the highest post in the country's highest court well past the day and hour when the Constitution allows an outgoing president to make such appointments. Then the University of Santo Tomas threw him his hands a doctoral diploma— after setting aside its own centuries(?)-old rule requiring candidates to write and publish a dissertation—with the highest Latin honors to boot, again ignoring another rule that no doctoral student can graduate with honors unless he or she completes all the requirements for the degree within a period of seven years. Now it appears that Corona got to own not one, not two, but three condominium units in places catering to the very rich in Taguig and Makati, plus a house and lot somewhere in Quezon City—all during the last few years, according to some members of the House of Representatives who are part of the prosecution panel in the impeachment trial of the Chief Justice.

There are very few details known so far about the house and lot and two of the condominium units, except that one unit is located in Makati and the other is in Bonifacio Ridge, an upscale condominium overlooking the Manila Golf Course in Bonifacio Global City (BGC) in Taguig. But what is known about Corona's third condo unit also in BGC is enough to raise eyebrows as well as some very interesting questions. Documents released to the media by the prosecution panel showed that Corona and his wife acquired for P14.31 million a 303.5-square meter penthouse suite and three parking slots at the posh The Bellagio in December 2008. Its developer describes The Bellagio as "a stylish home nestled at the edge of the majestic Manila Golf Course." Delia Rep. Niel Tupas Jr., head of the prosecution panel, said they suspect that this property was not reported in Corona's statement of assets, liability and net worth (SALN) and that its price was "beyond his income as a public official."

In his reply to the impeachment complaint, Corona admitted that he and his wife "purchased on installment a 300-sq. m. apartment in Taguig," but he "flatly denied" that he had accumulated ill-gotten wealth.

Here are two important questions Corona has to answer, now or a various public or later before the Senate sitting as an impeachment court. First, about the acquisition cost of The Bellagio penthouse suite. Some people who bought units in The Bellagio say they paid P82,000 per sq. m. when the building was still under construction in 2006. At that price, Corona's penthouse suite (not a modest "apartment") would have cost almost P25 million. Add the price of three car slots which should be about P3 million, and the total "pre-selling" cost should come up to P27 million. So how did Corona manage to get a very generous 47-percent discount? Was it through some hard bargaining or for other considerations?

Second, those in the matter of how he paid for the penthouse suite. If Corona made a 20-percent downpayment on the recorded acquisition cost of P14.31 million and paid the rest over a period of five years at the prevailing interest rate of 8.5 percent, then his monthly amortization would have amounted to P277,000. At the time he bought the property Corona was not yet the chief justice. The highest salary he received as an associate justice of the Supreme Court until 2010 was P440,917 monthly. Where did he get the extra P226,000 to cover his monthly amortization?

Corona, who has been in the government service for the last 20 years—almost 12 years in the Supreme Court—said he "acquired his assets from legitimate sources of income, mostly from his professional fees." But how much time can a justice of the Supreme Court spare to engage in "professional fees" other than deciding cases? Are such extra fees even allowed?

Of course, Corona could be a case of independent means, but if such is the case his SALN should show it. The problem is, he refuses to make his SALN public, hiding behind a Supreme Court ruling exempting members of the judiciary from the constitutional mandate supposedly in order to protect them against "fishing expeditions" by litigants or their lawyers pursuing falsehood against them. But in this case it is Corona who is on the dock and the prosecutors don't need to go on a fishing-expedition anymore. It looks like they have found one big rotten fish.

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Wheels of justice turn slowest in PH

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

HERE'S one example of the very slow wheels of justice in the Philippines, with the Supreme Court—specifically the chief justice and the court administrator—which supervises the lower courts, not exerting enough pressure on the lower courts to dispose of cases.

A triple homicide case against Liverio Antiporda Jr. now the mayor of Bugasong, Antique, has been pending in the Court of Appeals for more than 10 years now. Antiporda has already been convicted by the Manila Regional Trial Court, but he appealed the case to the Court of Appeals (CA). And here is the strange part: the CA justices, (oppos, 16 justices) to whom the case was assigned, inhibited themselves one after another for various reasons.

And here is another mystery: Antiporda was granted bail although he had already been convicted. Jurisprudence bans the grant of bail to convicted defendants pending appeal, but this was not followed in the case of Antiporda. So Antiporda is now free as a bird and, according to relatives of the victims, has been terrorizing the witnesses against him to retract their testimonies. So the longer the case is delayed, the longer he stays out of prison. Not only that, he was able to have himself elected mayor of Bugasong.

A brother of one of the victims has written to three chief justices—Hilario Davide, Reynato Puno and Renato Corona—asking them to speed up the resolution of the case but, apart from endorsing the letters to the CA, they did nothing. Justice delayed, justice denied does not mean anything to them.

Here is a budget number on the case:

Edwin Isah, Adelaida Isah and Bob Magpalayas were shot and killed by Antiporda II in front of a precinct in Barangay San Isidro, Bugasong, Caquiza, during the elections of May 8, 1995, where his father, then Mayor Liverio Antiporda Jr., was running for reelection.

On May 6, 2000, Antiporda II was found guilty by Judge Teresa Soriano of the Manila RTC of triple homicide and one count of **frustrated murder. Antiporda appealed to the CA.**

On Jan. 23, 2002, the CA affirmed the lower court's decision.

But here is another strange part to the story. Five days after affirming Antiporda's conviction, Associate Justice Bienvenido Reyes, who penned the decision, recalled it, claiming that he was not the assigned ponente and that his job was only to complete the records and endorse the case for re-raffle.

Here's how the case has been manipulated from one justice to another—a total of 17 now—all of whom except the last one, inhibited themselves from the case. Doesn't that make you wonder who they are doing this?

Alfredo Chua Jr., brother of one of the victims, sent to three chief justices one after another, to speed up the case. The latter was to Chief Justice Corona. Corona merely endorsed Chua's letter to the CA.

"It has been 16 years since my brother and two others were murdered," Chua wrote to Corona. "It took the RTC judge six years to make a decision. But the last 10 years, the case has been moving around the cubes of 17 justices of the Court of Appeals."

The case is now with Justice Sibisio Sorongon. Court appointed to Justice Sorongon to assist the head of Bugasong, Boni is another strange part. Antiporda did not even formally file a petition for bail. He merely asked that the bond he posted during his trial be accepted as his appeal bond.

The Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) opposed the grant of bail since the offense (triple homicide) is not bailable. But this motion was rendered moot and academic when then CA Justice Reyes affirmed Antiporda's conviction. Unfortunately, Reyes recalled his decision five days after he promulgated it. When the decision was recalled, the motions of the solicitor general and Chua remained unresolved.

Chua is now asking Justice Sorongon to resolve these motions.

It is not difficult to resolve it because there are already precedents. In the recent case of Jaime Batangan Sr., Jose Antonio Leviste, the Supreme Court affirmed the denial of bail after his conviction for one homicide (Arrepatia was convicted of three homicides).

"In our jurisdiction," the Supreme Court ruled, "the trend towards a strict attitude in the allowance of bail pending appeal is anchored on the principle that judicial discretion—particularly with respect to bail—should be exercised not with laxity but with caution and only for strong reasons. In fact, it has even been pointed out that grave caution that must attend the exercise of judicial discretion in granting bail is converted accused is best illustrated and exemplified in Administrative Circular 12-94 amending Rule 114, Section 5."

In its decision denying bail to Leviste, the tribunal quoted this policy:

"The importance attached to continue to be the underlying principle that bail should be granted only when it is uncertain whether the accused is guilty or innocent, and therefore when that uncertainty is removed by conviction it would, generally speaking, be absurd to admit bail. After a person has been tried and convicted the presumption of innocence, which may be relied upon in prior applications, is refuted, and the burden is upon the accused to show error in the conviction. Once a conviction for a capital offense has been had by a competent court of record, the probability of ultimate punishment is so enhanced in the conviction that the accused is much more likely to attempt to escape if liberated on bail than before conviction."

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KAPUSAN NOTES: The Kapilyan sa Hustisya resumes this Monday at the Diamond Hotel. Guests are Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, Budget Secretary Susie Abad, Rep. Mike Quezon, and Lawyer Mary Ropas.

PhilHealth exposes criminal syndicate

Passion for Reason

Raul C. Pangalangan

I FIRST worked with Dr. Eduardo Ebido Jr. ever when I was writing on the human rights to health for an international publication. When we discussed health issues in the Philippines, I was most impressed that he spoke not just as a doctor but as a citizen. He was willing to sit in extensive interviews on the social context of universal health issues, indeed even the nitty-gritty of legal debates, from the AUN Law Islands Inc Act for full Indigenous Statements—did you even know that?) to maternal mortality. Ebido is a Philippine doctor who took advanced studies in it at the London School of Economics. I was thus happy to hear that he joined government as PhilHealth president late last year, and not surprised at all that he had to give up a lucky World Bank appointment in order to do that.

Barcaza took over as PhilHealth president in October last year, and immediately got superb ex a new management team. By late November, his new team detected a scam that ripped off premium payments for PhilHealth, and by Dec. 7, 2011, he had created an investigation panel, chaired by a chief anti-fraud crowd former officers to report directly to him and the PhilHealth governing board. They have since called in the National Bureau of Investigation and the Anti-Money Laundering Council to help in the investigation. Sources has declared "zero tolerance for fraud."

In November 2011, the PhilHealth Treasury department detected a discrepancy between the reported collections of one of its accredited banks and the actual cash supposed to have been remitted to PhilHealth. They discovered that employees of a multinational firm paid their PhilHealth premiums, but their check payments were never deposited in the PhilHealth bank account. The checks were diverted to the Taiwanese branch of one of the nation's largest commercial banks and were thereafter laundered through several other accounts.

The scam began in October 2009 and stopped significantly when interest took over, and the amount siphoned off stands at P140 million and counting. It turns out that the PhilHealth database had been manipulated to amend the non-payments. The first order of the day was thus to secure the integrity of PhilHealth's computer database and to retrieve encrypted accreditation records as the law would allow, for the sake of transparency and due process, all fact-finding interviews were video-taped.

This is only the first step: running after the syndicate of insiders and outsiders who systematically looted the public. The second is to plug those loopholes that allowed them to scrape the hemorrhage of public funds in the future.

I have read recent complaints that PhilHealth is increasing the premiums to be collected from OFWs and that it offers substandard coverage for OFWs. Only enough to get jobs abroad that already offer full medical protection. If PhilHealth succeeds in its hunt for this syndicate and in stamping out corruption, it should be able to perform its mission without hiking OFW premiums. On the other hand, redistributory of coverage is not unjust to be related compatible with PhilHealth's goal of universal health to be stable needs to be leveraged as broadly as possible across the entire spectrum, premiums can be adjusted to share a universal recognition that some OFWs are differently situated.

The ultimate goal is of course universal health coverage for Filipinos, employed or unemployed, rich or poor. The first time I experienced what it means to have full health coverage was when I was writing my doctoral dissertation in the United States, answering on a grant from the budget but fully covered by the school's health plan. Until then, I had always assumed that each trip to the doctor or the pharmacy entailed out-of-pocket expenses. When my wife first gave birth at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, I braced myself for the moment I received the hospital bill. I reserved at least two hours to go over the bill, when we checked out. To my amazement, it took barely two minutes and I just had to sign some acknowledgment that with full health coverage, one doesn't have to be rich in order to have peace of mind that the family's health needs will be provided for.

Between quick and proactive response should be gratifying to those of us insured in Global Cities and subjects to regular PhilHealth deductions. Public insurance and pension funds are the most vulnerable parts of the public welfare. Why? Because they are akin to "victimless crimes" where it is difficult to pinpoint a "sufficiently individuated" victim, a casualty who would suffer enough from small bites to thus "because we are all victims, none of us is really hurt. The actual loss is theoretically apportioned over several million subscribers, and the "injury in fact" is minimum.

Yet the real price is paid by those who are left behind. When the Senate decided that P100 million is pocketed by the corrupt, those whose premiums are increased to make up for that loss, and finally by each Philhealth member who bears the cost of monitoring and regulation, whose premiums, instead of paying for health services, end up paying lawyers and policy investigators.

That is why, in the absence of a visible victim, the real guardian of our premiums is Philhealth: are people who deserve our trust. Since Edsa 1, the theme of anti-corruption has been to strengthen our institutions and our laws—and rightly so. But we have been at it for more than 25 years already and perhaps it is time to return to the old wisdom that institutions are run by people, as well as to entrust the public purse only to people who have shown themselves worthy of our trust. Rather to Barazon and his evangelists: I hope they turn up closer to the dream of universal health coverage for every Filipino family.

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Comments to jacopangalangan@gmail.com

Prosecution short-circuiting impeachment court

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

FOR TWO days in a row, last Tuesday and Wednesday, the House prosecution panel introduced to the senator-judges an avalanche of documents it claimed to be part of its evidence to back a charge of graft and corruption against Chief Justice Renato Corona. But the panel did 12 days ahead of the start of Corona's impeachment trial on the first day of work in the Senate on Jan. 16.

The documents purported to show premium properties purchased by Corona and his wife in Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, in December 2009. The premature disclosure of the documents outside the trial, including the press conferences by House members in the midst of the yearend holiday break. The press conferences stunked some of the public to believe that the much-awaited trial had begun. To put, head of the House committee on justice, shocked the attack in the House, which method and consequences of the House prosecution panel on the impeachment of Corona, without debate in both the committee and the plenary—a prerequisite in democratic parliamentary proceedings.

As if to bullet or confirmed office, the House again attempted to short-circuit the Senate on what is supposed to be a semblance of order, discipline and respect for evidence in its procedures that are supposed to put impeachment above the tumultuous, hot-and-cool mode in the streets. When Tupas disclosed the documents at the press conference, he acted as though he was presenting exhibits in a courtroom trial, when in fact he was handing the news media with unverified data, not included in its eight articles of impeachment against Corona. The disclosure and the method and were so offensive that they immediately were denounced as the opening salvo of a trial by publicity in a volatile forum, where violent assessment of evidence is difficult to maintain. Some senators urged the House prosecutors not to be part of the lynch mob mentality that is close look at Rule XVIII of the Rules of Procedure on impeachment trial.

They pointed out that Rule XVIII states that the presiding officer [i.e., the Senate president] and the members of the Senate "shall refrain from making any comments or disclosure to public pertaining to the merits of an impending impeachment trial." It adds that "[t]hey shall likewise apply to prosecutors, to the person impeached, and to their respective counsels and witnesses."

According to opposition lion Francis Escudero, chair of the Senate justice committee, the House would issue a gag order to the defense and prosecution to prevent them from giving information to the media that can muddle public opinion on the trial. "I think it is about time that we stop washing dirty linen in public and calling each other names," Escudero said.

The disclosure opened the House panel to accusations by Corona's lead counsel, retired Supreme Court Justice Serafin Cuevas, who said that the prosecution was "really trying to demolish the chief justice." I hope I'm wrong," he said. "But there could be no mistake, except by an angry public opinion and to portray Corona as a violator of the law and a tax evader." There was no question that the disclosure was "tantamount to trial by publicity," he said. "Do you still question that? But it's not the general public that will decide. It's the impeachment court."

Cuevas said the defense would ask the Senate to "prohibit the House prosecutors from further presenting to the public the supposed evidence against Corona. My honest opinion is that the disclosure violates the rules. Perhaps [the Bonifacio Global City] should not have been done because we are prohibited from discussing in public the merits and demerits of our respective accusation or journalism."

"But it is not in accordance with the rules of the Senate. I am telling you, the senators are saying this one before the public," He said, the defense will have to wait for the formal start of the trial before filing any pleading with the Senate. "We will definitely invite the attention of the impeachment court to stop this kind of trial by publicity," he said.

There's doubt if the overzealous prosecutors would pay attention to the admonitions of their evidence partly because they consider themselves above the norms of fairness, because they have their own rules, and partly because they are driven by the objective to convict Corona at all costs, but at least—which is their marching order. The other apparent prosecutor's objective is to use the start of the trial is to completely humiliate and crush him in effect now appears as a wretched earth policy of total destruction, where no living creatures can survive the government's overwhelming firepower.

The current unpopularity of government in droves has helped to mobilize the anti-Corona hordes. The denial of due process in the impeachment trial can also demonstrate that any citizen who crosses the government or who opposes its policies and priorities can be denied his/her political rights.

The full-out should never be ruled out that the Senate impeachment court, by its composition in throwing the full weight of its powers en route its victims. On more it is likely to lose some critical votes among the undecided in the Senate. They could tip the balance when the voting comes.

Guns and domestic violence

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

LEADING THE news on the first days of the New Year was the item about a former woman residing as a passenger for a government agency who shot to death her wife, another woman lawyer, and wounded the sister in-law's American fiancé.

The TV news shows and even newspapers chose to highlight the angle about the man's claim that he was prompted to shoot the victims after his repeated requests that "pahinan" or dimming mode were ignored by his wife who was busy and working on a computer. (There were no indications if she was playing "Angry Birds" or not.)

Incensed by police after a maximum, female cop, SF, admitted that he and his wife (his first) had been fighting over the latter's refusal to dim the brightness of the computer screen, and that he had been drunk when he came home, demanding food so he could continue his drinking spree. Angered when Dina chose to ignore his demands, Ronald went for a pistol he kept in the house and shot Gina in the head. The other victim, Dina's sister, was shot when he brandished the pistol, as he shot them, too.

In a TV interview, Gina's brother admitted they had long known of the violent relationship and that Ronald kept a gun in the house. "But I never expected that he would actually gun out his wife and my relatives," the man tearfully confessed.

This is one the first cases domestic violence has reared its ugly head, resulting in fatal shootings and making it to the headlines. Last October, Ishmael Ong Chi Cobo was thrown into an upstairs window, fatally shot by his wife, Dina, who dead her husband's their three adult children and a helper. Police quarrel for younger child, Embrahimi, 14, telling her to call the police. While the child was saving, Dina's shot himself.

10 in the case of Cruz, neighbors and family had long known of the violence in the Perez household. Police used to work as a common but appeared to be jobless after he stopped **working on ships. There was also speculation** that Perez was involved in drugs.

His wife Melinda, on the other hand, was **quite accomplished, being a bank manager** and had barely taken an interest in running another business and there were even suggestions made to shield the parents of the gun wielder (who subsequently committed suicide) response. He, 10 days dead and kept quiet at home and unable to flee out, they argued, then he would not have been able to kill the other boy.

But a gun at home also presents a threat even in family members with no violent intentions, except perhaps in themselves. Suicide by a gun in a fit of passion is said to be the "method of choice" among men. And no matter how securely kept and hidden from view, a gun in the house serves as a tempting option. Mental health authorities say that the clinically depressed think of it and if they don't have a gun at hand, that suicide is in fact a sign that the terrible dark cloud of depression is beginning to lift, enough to allow the sufferer to take action. Having a gun within reach increases the risk of succeeding.

* * *

SOUTHER knows that comes to mind is that domestic violence, no matter how "benign" it seems in the beginning, escalates to often unimaginable levels.

Neighbors and relatives will often continue "looking the other way" even when suffering physical or mental abuse. Even children who witness beatings and harassment will keep the abused parent to bear with the suffering, for the sake of preserving family unity.

One wonders what would have happened if Ronald, family and neighbors of Gina Cruz or Melinda Perez had taken action early enough, urging the women to seek counseling or else escape from the intolerable situation at home, for else if any of the neighbors, overhearing violent arguments or ominous thuds and bumps, had reported the matter to police, domestic the dangerous situation in both households.

Would Gina or Melinda have accepted their advice and acted to protect themselves and their children? Would they have used the guns, even in order to stop their abusive husbands and save their children? Sometimes, the greater danger arises from the victims' own sense of pride and ability to bear the greatest suffering.

'Out of sync'

LOOKING BACK

Andrech R. Geyanglo

IF YOU haven't done so yet, its not too late to get a piece of chalk in classical and write the following good luck charm on top of your main door: "+20+C+M+B+12." If you are in the mood, you can mark all doors and lower doors on for the rest of the year. This ancient German tradition was brought to the Philippines by the Benedictine monks of Tutong, who are better known for their schools and convents—all called St. Scholastica—in Manila, Bangalog, Imbalog, Baguio, Cebu, etc. Crosses are lucky symbols anywhere except on toilet papers where they are distinctly unlucky.

The "+" signs in the good luck charm correspond to the number of the Three Kings whose feast used to be celebrated on Jan. 6, but has since been moved to the Sunday after New Year and is now known as Epiphany. Those letters are also connected to Benedictine Benedictus (Christ bless our home).

Contrary to popular belief the Bible does not give us the names of those "Wise Men" (Magi) who came to adore the child in the manger in Bethlehem that first Christmas. Neither is the Bible clear on the Magi attended the birth of Jesus. Did they arrive on how many Magi there were? They are known as Three Kings because each brought an expensive present: gold, frankincense and myrrh. Their names have come down to us from tradition: Caspar, Melchior, Balthasar. Little wonder that two centuries ago a popular carol was composed that had between Gaspar-Quacito-Cito, to Jean and Sebastian Squito on Jan. 6, 1812, they picked a name off a calendar. They discarded Caspar and Balthasar, added an "a" to the end of the remaining name to make it feminine and left us with a name highlight: Melchora Aquino de Ocampo, Nobel Founding Sister, Mother of the Philippine Revolution.

I forgot to write "+20+C+M+B+12" atop my door when the city fell 2011 goodbye and greeted 2012 with fireworks that filled the air with gunpow-

der smoke so dense that airplanes couldn't land in Nina on Jan. 1 because of poor visibility. I reminded, I could still do the ritual late on other dates like Jan. 6, the original Feast of the Three Kings; Jan. 8, the Epiphany; or at the very least on Jan. 25, the Chinese New Year. These excuses for my forget fulness made me realize that my 2011 schedule of holidays has celebrations we didn't have before. Chinese New Year and Muslim holidays. These should remind us that we live in a changing world and that while the Philippines is predominantly Catholic, our Filipinos shouldn't forget that there are other faiths equally acknowledged and protected by the State and the Constitution.

Filipinos reckoning of time must have been different before the Spanish colonizers in the 16th century, when our ancestors counted days by the sun, and noted changes in the shape of the moon to determine months. Our calendar has long been a Western-Gregorian calendar which explains why official documents still refer to years with the acronym A.D. for Anno Domini (The Lord's Year). What is not very well known though is that the Philippines was "out of sync" with the rest of the world, after it followed the Gregorian calendar, for over three centuries. This began all the way back in the time Magellan made the mistake of stopping on our shores in 1521. Instead of returning to Spain, the leader of the Magellan expedition, was not aware that they had crossed the International Date Line and kept rock-counting days from their departure in Europe.

Pigafetta should have added a day when he re-

viewed his notes for publication or official use. When the time ship, the Victoria, with the survivors of the battle of Mactan arrived back in Europe, he insisted that they had lost a day. Pigafetta kept a diary day by day and was surprised to find his log was one day behind European dates.

The calendar was changed early in 1844, when Spanish Governor-General Narciso Claveria, decreed that Sunday, Dec. 31, 1844, would be changed to Jan. 1, 1845, and all calendars should be adjusted accordingly.

Claveria is listed history as the governor who ordered the use and census purposes, that all Filipinos should have surnames chosen from the Gaceta oficial (Bulletin de apellido (1849). The Claveria decree fixing our calendar, translated from the original Spanish, is but one of the many obscure but interesting materials compiled by the late Carlos Quirino in his book, "Philippine Government Sources of Philippine History." It reads as follows:

"Superior Government of the Philippines. Considering it convenient to make the reckoning of days in these islands uniform with that in Europe, China, and other countries situated east of the Cape of Good Hope, which—the calendars are one day ahead of ours for reasons which are well known—all, I order with the consent of the Archbishop of Manila the Date Line [sic] that for this year only is suppressed Sunday the 31st December, and it has really passed, and that the day following Monday, the 1st of the same month of January, 1845, and on January 1, 1845, beginning of the calendar of said year, without the necessity of alteration."

From 1521 to 1844, the Philippine calendar was one day behind the rest of the world and it had to take a seemingly obscure compulsive Spanish governor general to adjust the calendar itself bring his islands "in sync" with the rest of the world.

* * *

Comments are welcome in my facebook fan page.

Tandang Sora

AFTER MIAAS birth announcement, it's now Tandang Sora's bicentennial. But while we know so much about Kiko, including voluminous materials he wrote, there's very little information on Tandang Sora, even if she is sometimes called the Mother of the Philippine Revolution.

I found the front-page article yesterday which had the headline "Tandang Sora Declared Her Nation's Existence" penned by Inquirer's newest, Quirino, quipping, "Dapat Tandang Sora, hindi Tandang Sora." Closing the web of the Hispanic pun, here's the English translation: should be Beautiful Sora, not Tandang Sora.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tee

Of course we'll have more anecdotes about Tandang Sora in the months ahead but I want to point out two more historical facts. I checked with libraries and bookstores and there's not a single book written about her. The internet had one Wikipedia entry in English and another one in Filipino, which is a translation of the one in English.

It is from Wikipedia that we learn she was born on Jan. 6, 1812, in Caloocan as written in Sora's Agapito to present parents, Manuel Alejandro Lopez and Rosa Delfino, one of the things since she was born on the feast of the magi.) She was said to have been Boyan Sora several times in sentimentos, but no mention of Inang Tubarta like Statues. She married Fulgencio Ramos, a subsis de barrio (the equivalent of a barangay captain today), was widowed early and had to raise six children as a widow/sister.

She became a popular between mayor, a quinare, for her inn and hospitality, which suggests she must have had some economically stable, if not affluent. It was her inns that became a haven for Katipuneros seeking financial assistance as well as a place for refuge and clandestine meetings. She was also said to have assisted the wounded. All this when Tandang Sora was in her 80s.

The Spanish authorities got wind of her subversive activities and she was arrested in 1896 and tortured, but did not divulge any information about her comrades in arms. The Spaniards exiled her to Guam, where she stayed till 1900, when the Americans allowed her and other Filipino exiles to return. She lived till 1919, to the ripe old age of 107.

However we will raise their eyebrows if they check the Wikipedia entry's reference: «language» and «to book and to friends guide.» I have not been able to track down the book, which, if true, would be a valuable source of more information. Meanwhile, the challenging my own history department at UP to get more information on Tandang Sora, to present at a conference scheduled for March. I promise to keep Inquirer readers updated on that conference.

Heroines

The lack of information on Tandang Sora only reflects the way we neglect our heroes in general and, even more so, our heroines. We imagine heroes mainly as fighters, and forget how revolutions would fail without the many women working behind the scenes and, occasionally taking up arms themselves.

When Tessie Infante Oliveros of the UP College of Social Work and Community Development first approached me about co-sponsoring a Tandang Sora conference, I suggested we include muslims or other forgotten Filipino heroines, from the Spanish colonial period, through the three wars and beyond. Unfortunately, the more recent titled memorandum for the expert papers on these women.

Tandang Sora herself will always be the most intriguing. Note how she's always mentioned as Melchora Aquino, rather than by her married surname of Ramos. I doubt if the two presidents, Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos, are related to her, but it's interesting how the connection between Tandang Sora lives in history as Tandang Sora, which further highlights her value in the way each as old woman would have become a revolutionary. I know of older women who joined the underground movement during the Marcos dictatorship, but no one as old as Tandang Sora. Nor has to have participated on such great risk, and she paid a steep price, ending up exile to Guam.

For all those accolades, how have we honored her? There's one, and only one movie made in 1947. It is titled "Tandang Sora," with Lamberto Avellana as director, and Rosa del Rosario and Pedro Faustino in the lead roles. I got that video from a rental shop in Recto or the Isetmor Movie Database, which is UP-based. This begging question: hope that there's a copy of the film still available.

Both figuratively and literally, Tandang Sora has been devalued through the years. She was on the 100-peso note from 1992 to 1996 at a time when P100 was worth even more than P1,000 today. In the mid-1980s currency reforms and issuance of new bills, she was demoted from the to-a-tiny 5-centavo coin. Since 2005, she has not figured in any of our banknotes or coins, even as other heroes' mug-shots with questionable credentials have made it.

Street in San Francisco

We do have the Tandang Sora district in Quezon City, which is being upgraded up for that bicentennial, but I have a feeling there aren't too many places elsewhere in the Philippines where she is honored that way.

I did discover that there is a Tandang Sora Street in San Francisco, California. I lived in that city many years ago and so was intrigued to see that street name. A Google search on my own street name, which is in the Bonifacio Global City area, between 3rd and 4th Streets and near the Bayshore Freeway. This is a largely Filipino-dominated enclave and has other streets named after several of our heroes: Rizal, Mabini, Bonifacio, even Lapu-lapu. Perhaps might want to do a Google map exercise with their children to see how close to home the generic street names which get as detailed as showing you a Pacific Rim business right on Tandang Sora.

Back to Tandang Sora's life, there's a lot of catching up to do and, fortunately, Tandang Sora's descendants are still around, and organized. They've been meeting nearly with the Quezon City government, which has declared 2012 as Tandang Sora Year. Just yesterday, they were able to locate Tandang Sora from Hindustang Filipino to Border Road in the Tandang Sora district, where a shrine has been dedicated on her. Time is short, there's so much mystery around Tandang Sora, with her remains mysteriously transferred to Hindustang Filipino in 1970 from the Mausoleum of the Heroes one of the Philippine Revolution in the North Cemetery.

I'll keep you posted as we uncover new information on Tandang Sora, as well as fresh insights on what she means for Philippine history.

* * *

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Reasons for optimism

LETTERS

MR. FILIPINOS have plenty of reasons to be optimistic this 2012 considering the momentum gained by President Aquino in fighting our enemies and in addressing basic concerns like employment, food security and economic growth.

Eighteen months into P-Noy's presidency, unemployment is down to 6.3 percent from 7.1 percent, while the labor force is greater by some 2 million to reach 39 percent as of October 2011.

Bro. stalwarts — meaning, the Philippines are sending or importing 10 percent of its rice requirements — is attainable next year, since we are the unchangeable Secretary Proceso Alcala heading the agriculture department.

Meanwhile, the peso, a barometer of our economic health, has remained very stable in the exchange rate of P43 to $1.00 dollar.

And it's no very surprise that 95 percent of Filipinos are 2012 being better than 2011, it may also have to do with P-Noy's honest-to-goodness campaign against graft and corruption.

"Strongest" Chief Justice Renato Corona, having been impeached by the House of Representatives, is now facing trial at the Senate; and his benefactor, former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, is now detained while on trial for electoral sabotage and also while manning the progress of the graft charges against her in relation to the MSA-ZTE scandal.

Not seeing after guiltiest in the past administrations is only half the story because the Aquino administration itself has materialized his pledge to honor good governance in the government.

Finally, we have a President who is living up to his campaign promises so the Filipino people whose to talk his bosses.

—ALBERTO MARAVE, duckandcover@ymail.com

FATHER TENTORIO'S sympathizers call for an end to extrajudicial killings and culture of impunity.

News report put Acosta in bad light

THE DEC. 28, 2011 issue of the Inquirer carried a news item, titled "Aquino adviser fights suspension on graft charges," on Antonio Acosta's presidential appointment that was ordered by the Sandiganbayan, as the Office of the Special Prosecutor had asked the court. The report, because of the big, bold headline affords many of "Inquirer" newspaper's readership to put Acosta in a bad light before the public. Apart from the detrimental play-up of the citizenship between Acosta and President Aquino, the former was made to appear so far above the law by virtue of this relation and his position in the government.

Furthermore, although at the start, the article referred to and quoted some portions of Acosta's "opposition filed with the Sandiganbayan's Fourth Division," the rest of the article appeared as if it was based on a personal interview with him. This is severely misleading, especially doubtless, as Inquirer reporter Leila Salaverria did not conduct any such interview with Acosta and neither did she then submit his personal opinion in the article.

The legal appearance of Acosta was for the Sandiganbayan's consideration, not for public consumption. It is hardly possible to impose a sure-footing question of law and facts in the press. This is a traditional restriction of civilized society everywhere that exists and jurist, in the decision of issues of fact and law, should be insulated from overt or subconscious influences." But the article, which commenced on and disclosed judicial proceedings, exposed the case to a trial by publicity and exercised undue influence on the courts.

Finally, it bears noting that "[t]he ethical rule forbids statements and disclosures pertaining to judicial proceedings to avoid prejudicing the issue, influencing the court, or obstructing the administration of justice. A violation of the rule publicity may render one liable for both contempt under Sec. 3(d), Rule 71 of the Rules of Court."

Therefore, the lawyers would do well to avoid these publicity seeking meeting on the above mentioned case.

—ATTY. ERNESTO C. SANDOVAL JR., counsel for Presidential Adviser on Environmental Protection J. G. Serrano Acosta

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I write reception to the claim that my story was misleading or meritless.

1. The fact is that the opposition was filed in court and referred to and quoted in the second and third paragraphs of my story. And it was clearly the basis of the story.

2. The opposition, Acosta filed it a public record. Any citizen, do such, the opposition filed by the prosecution to have him suspended. I only reported Acosta's arguments in his opposition.

3. It was Acosta himself, in his opposition, who brought up his relationship with the President.

4. Nowhere in the story was it said that it was based on an interview with Acosta.

5. Nowhere in the story did I comment on the merits of Acosta's opposition.

—LEILA B. SALAVERRIA, reporter, Inquirer

Independence or judicial greed?

PEOPLE SAY that justice stands in this country a major reason for this is that many courts are inept. Unfortunately, it appears that the Supreme Court has an incentive for keeping their vacant because the amounts allowed for them are regularly "conserved" in savings and distributed among the justices and other court personnel as bonuses and allowances.

This practice was also done in the Related Senate of the Philippines, which "conserved" allowances for vacant positions and gifts for travelling ambassadors and "guidance" for outgoing senators, all taken from the sovereign funds by Congress then the plaintiff left to the outside of one of the most prominent beneficiaries of "conserved."

The high courts must realize that the disbursement of budgetary allocations for purposes other than those provided by law is technical malversation, plain and simple, by the practice of conversion to particular than the Court had no basis decisions that, contrary to law, justices are exempt from the obligation of disclosing to proper authorities their statement of assets, liabilities and net worth.

These rules, in the name of "judicial independence," are against the Aquino administration's move to ensure that allocations for official positions are spent as the law intends, not to have defending corporations, "judicial greed."

—CESAR VILLEGA, cesarvillegas1944@yahoo.com

Suspects cite no military link to priest's murder

OBVIOUSLY, THE people in Arakan, North Cotabato, still mourn the passing of Fr. Fausto Tentorio who was gunned down last year, even as his killers have been arrested. Father Tentorio left a legacy of service in his missionary work, which is today his memory cannot easily be erased, especially in the minds and hearts of the indigenous peoples he served for so long.

He worked not only for the spiritual nourishment of his flock. He also made sure that their rights were simply protected. Maybe, because of his dedication to his work, he stepped on other people's toes and he easily became a target for liquidation. Perhaps some groups were intimidated by his courage and boldness, hence, they thought it was necessary to eliminate him.

His death was said to be the handiwork of the military which almost always gets the blame when committed by them, killed or assassinated. And it is understood now as the Armed Forces says it hasn't to say was affected the soldiers' morale.

With the arrest of the suspects, no evidence has come up linking the military to Father Tentorio's killing. I myself wonder why would the NPA just do to killing Father Tentorio who was performing a similar mission as helping people in the area? Groups like the New People's Army are most likely to gain from winning the military. They have a prime provocation for always pointing out the military as the usual culprit in when a violent killings happen. Whatever, Father Tentorio is now at peace and his killers will pay for their misdeed.

There will be no other Father Tentorios who will bravely carry on his missionary work.

To the CPP-NPA, please refrain from using tragic incidents, such as Father Tentorio's murder, for propaganda purposes. It is not only a disgusting act, it shows the group's insensitivity to the feelings of those grieving the loss of loved ones.

—CRISTELO. ARNAL, Zamboanga City

Bad taste on the part of UST officials leads to cheap shot

[illegible] as reference to non-issues, to articles: "UST break rules for CJ Onubies, 2/1/12, and "UST, CJ named PhD" (Inquirer, 1/1/12).

The misplaced facts established by the two articles:

1. UST admitted that there was no dissertation submitted by Chief Justice Renato Corona;

2. UST did not deny the virtually admitted that Corona finished his doctoral course in 38 years instead of seven years as required by its social rules; it claimed instead that as an independent academic institute, it had the academic freedom to deviate from its own rules.

Ergo, it was very clear that Marites Dañguilan-Vitug was right in saying that UST broke its own rules to accommodate Corona. Yet, UST denies that it broke the rules in conferring Corona with a doctoral degree, common sense tender.

I do not understand how a supposedly reputable academic institution like UST can still claim that it did not break the rules in the face of these undisputed facts. That is clearly "double talk" if not an outright lie but to the public. Could factum non argumentum, against the facts, there could be no argument?

UST would have done better, if, [illegible] documented records... then it was, provided some rules in the rule of Corona and to a well written inquirer and "academic freedom" to do so.

It was also sort of bad taste for UST's officials to question Vitug and Inquirer's credibility in the process, instead of just responding to the issues. This was definitely a cheap shot.

—MARCUS VALLE, [illegible]@yahoo.com

Meralco service at work.

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

WADING THE floods spared, flood-borne diseases are taking ill. Patients pack the emergency room of Northern Mindanao Medical Center after cases of leptospirosis and diarrhea increase in Cagayan de Oro City.

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY

Dumaguete bans return of homes in riverbanks

By Alex Pal
Inquirer Visayas

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Dumaguete City government has banned the rebuilding of homes along the Banica River whose houses were destroyed by the Dec. 17 flash floods at the height of Tropical Storm "Sendong."

Dumaguete City Administrator William Ablong told the Inquirer on Wednesday that Mayor Manuel Sagarbarria has issued a "no return" order in the seaside where homes were either damaged or washed away by the flash floods.

Ablong said they also ordered barangay captains of riverside communities to stop residents from rebuilding their homes.

In a meeting of the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council last Monday, it was noted that most, if not all, of the damaged riverside homes had been rebuilt in the same hazardprone sites in Barangays Bantayan, Junob, Candau-ay, Piapi, Bagacay, Talay-talay, Tabuctubo and Calindagan, where 450 homes were destroyed by floods.

Ablong said he had asked the Bayanihan Help Credit Cooperative and the Dumaguete City Credit Cooperative to stop granting calamity loans that flood victims would simply use to rebuild their homes until the city had identified a suitable relocation site.

He said United Fullogs (UF) has a piece of land that could be used as a site for cost shelter units to be built out of the P36-million funding from the Department of Social Welfare and Development. Each unit, worth P79,000 comes with one room and one toilet.

Ablong said they were negotiating with UF for the evacuees to set up town to a 5,000-square-meter lot near the CE Village.

The barangay captains were also asked to identify lands in their areas that could be used as temporary relocation sites.

Ablong said the city would rent the land through a lease contract for at least one year. Once the barangay captains establish contact with the landowners, the city would check if the land was not prone to floods or landslides, Ablong said.

All schools in flood-hit areas in Negros Oriental were opened to classes on Tuesday.

The Department of Education said evacuees who occupied the Batinguel Elementary School have left the premises but some 21 families were still camped in tents behind the Candau-ay Elementary School.

Rosaldina Lacorte, of the City Schools Division Office, said the families may be seen during the day and occupy their classrooms as sleeping quarters at night.

Flood diseases killing survivors of 'Sendong'

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—A disease borne by the floods that had killed hundreds here and in Iligan City last Dec. 17 is killing people who had survived the disaster that struck the two cities at the height of Tropical Storm "Sendong."

At least 13 people are now dead because of leptospirosis and 200 others are stricken ill and taken to hospitals.

Authorities said the rising death toll from leptospirosis could be due to the failure of survivors to take the antibiotics that had been distributed to them immediately after the Dec. 17 deluge.

As of yesterday, 13 people had been confirmed dead due to leptospirosis [eight from this city and seven from Iligan City] while more than 200 others had contracted the disease caused by the bacteria leptospira.

Its prevalence in flooded areas is often blamed on infected urine although other animals, like dogs and rats, could also become carriers.

Health officials said during the distribution of medicines, rescuers were also told to take doses of the antibiotics doxycycline.

Jan Galvan, information officer of the Department of Health in Northern Mindanao, said the antibiotics were handed out in anticipation of flood-borne diseases as people wade in floodwaters in search for missing relatives or retrieve belongings.

An inter-patient travel hospitals, Dr. David Mendoza, head of the Regional Epidemiology Surveillance and Disease Response Unit, said health officials were certain that many evacuees failed to heed the advice of health officials to take the antibiotic before they wade in the floods.

In this city, 86 persons tested positive for leptospirosis while 118 cases were reported in Iligan City.

Galvan said the mortality rate here was 4 percent and 6 percent in Iligan.

Dr. Aniso Bermudez, Northern Mindanao health director, said health officials were studying double time to combat the disease following a declaration of an outbreak.

He said health workers were also told to conduct an information campaign against leptospirosis.

Galvan said one way of avoiding leptospirosis is to wear protective gear when wading in muddy or flooded areas.

"They need to wear rubber boots and rubber gloves," he said.

As people become aware of the importance of doxycycline, the supply of the antibiotic is becoming scarce.

Several pharmacies outside the Northern Mindanao Medical Center (NMMC) have reported they were running out of doxycycline.

Mendoza said those showing symptoms of leptospirosis [flu-like fever, jaundice and vomiting, among others] should immediately see a doctor.

In a related development, a six-member Swiss emergency relief team working in disaster-hit areas of Northern Mindanao since Dec. 22 ended its humanitarian work yesterday.

The team, backed by a P15-million financial assistance from the Swiss government, helped restore water supply in some areas here and Iligan City and also installed water tanks in evacuation centers.

"The Swiss emergency team has shown tremendous skills and dedication to its efforts to relieve the suffering of the affected population," Swiss Ambassador to the Philippines Ivo Sieber said.

Reports from Bobby Lagsa and Ryan Rosauro, Inquirer Mindanao

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STRADCOM

Cebu, Iloilo prepare for Sto. Niño feasts

By Jason A. Regala
and Nestor Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—Devotees in Cebu and Iloilo are gearing for the annual feast of the Holy Child Jesus.

At least 20,000 devotees joined the dawn procession in Cebu on Thursday that signaled the start of the novena preceding the feast of the Sto. Niño on Jan. 13.

In Iloilo, organizers of this year's Dinagyang Festival are expecting 1 million and more colorful events in the week-long festivity that will peak on Jan. 21-22.

The annual dawn procession in the Basilica Minore del Sto. Niño in downtown Cebu City started the Sinulog fluvial words celebration with a Mass and the Sinulog Grand Parade on Jan. 15.

Devotees lit candles and carried images of the Sto. Niño as they sang and prayed during the procession.

Thousands filled the basilica and nearby the entire stretch of Osmeña Boulevard for Mass.

Strollers from Cebu and elsewhere are expected to flock to this city for the feast.

Preparations are also ongoing for the Dinagyang.

Sen Jinggoy Estrada, Iloilo City tourism officer, said this year's feast would be reinforced from a showcase of major festivals in Western Visayas.

Thirteen tribes will compete on Jan. 22 in the Ati-Atihan contest, the highevent of the Iloilo festival.

Artists said how judging areas have been identified for the Ati-Atihan and Sandurot-han contests.

Dinagyang, held every third weekend of January, has been elevated to the Hall of Fame as the country's best tourism event by the Association of Tourism Officers of the Philippines.

WHAT WENT BEFORE

A SPATE of landslides has claimed many lives in Philippines town in Compostela Valley in recent years.

On May 10, 2009, at least 27 people, mostly miners, were killed and 18 others were injured when three of seven mines in Kapyawan, a landslide at Sitio Mangagitan in Barangay Magnaga and nearby villages.

Officials were told by residents that a sudden "lindol" (aftershock) hit the upper mountainous area, causing 30 disasters and a burst.

On April 23, 2011, another mine collapsed, another landslide at Sitio Bangaanan in Barangay Kingking. Thirteen people were killed.

In August last year, three small scale miners were killed in a landslide that hit a mining area in New Bataan town, the other landslide killed five people in Barangay Dewalwal in Montevista town last December.

Following the April disasters, Gov. Arturo D. ordered a 30-day halt to all mining operations in the gold-rich areas of the province. Residents of nearby areas were forced to evacuate for safety reasons.

Monitoring, control system

Manila Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Pabillo called for a moratorium on all mining operations until an efficient monitoring and control system had been put in place.

But the director of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), Leo Jasareno, said that even a slight moratorium would be landslides. He maintained that the problem was illegal small scale mining, not the mining industry itself.

In May, the MGB dispatched a team of geologists to conduct a detailed preliminary mapping of Compostela and therefore town. Personnel entered the flood-prone area in July, the team submitted the log landslide casualties to the unregulated influx of small-scale miners to the areas.

They found that the landslides in Pantukan occurred in areas close to road projects and mining sites while those in Compostela happened along new road cuts.

At least six areas in Barangay Napnapan and Sitio Panoorin in Barangay Kingking were identified as highly susceptible to landslides.

The study asked local officials to strictly enforce land use plans and regulate the construction of hill cuts and roads to prevent the recurrence of disasters and recommended that could trigger landslides. *Zamboanga del Sur man, Inquirer Researcher with reports from the Mindanao Bureau; Inquirer Archives*

Kidnapped Australian airs plea for payment of $2-M ransom

A FORMER Australian soldier kidnapped last month in Mindanao is now pleading for his life in a video sent to his family and urging the Philippines and Australia to raise a $2-million ransom being demanded for his capture.

The video of 53-year-old Wesley Richard Stoddard, taken with four plainclothes detainees from an undisclosed and apparently wounded in the right hand, were mailed to his Filipina wife before Christmas, police officials said.

The Associated Press saw a copy of the video and pictures yesterday.

In the video, Stoddard appears to be tired from a piece of paper. Stoddard tried to draw his attention to spoke in the brief video, although was given by his family to police investigators.

Looking haggard and unshaven, he appears to be sitting at times and stood in front of a blue tarpaulin covering a background.

One of the photos showed a silver handcuff and its chain dangling from his left wrist. The other of his right palm appeared to be wounded.

Stoddard, who also previously worked as a university teacher in Shanghai, was taken at gunpoint by about six men on Dec. 5 in southern Jolo town in Tawi-Tawi province, police said.

It was the largest abduction of a foreigner in the country's volatile South, where several kidnapping have been blamed on the Abu Sayyaf and its allied gunmen.

Some of the detainees were identified as Ary Tolentino, 34, and her sister Bea, 36, Susana Mesinguit, 46, of Bagtasbon, San Isidro, Enrico Quimodo, and Raul Tolentino, Alberto Sanchez, 23, and Fernando Dingdal, all of Western Village in Tagaytay City.

Dr. Rosario Bacomo, provincial health officer, said at least four of the 17 rescued so far were admitted to the hospital.

Bacomo said the Provincial social welfare office said local disaster teams had already been dispatched to the area. Reports from *Princess Lira, Bonnie Tandoc, Gamaliha Lacorte, Kathe Bondoc and Edwin Fernando in Jolo; Inquirer Mindanao, and Antonio Hernandez in Manila*

"Our primary focus remains the Stoddard's welfare," the deputy said said in a statement.

Other suspected in the Philippines is working closely with local authorities with support from a whole-of-government task force in Canberra, "it added.

Hundreds of Philippine troops are hunting for Stoddard in the Zamboanga peninsula and nearby Basilan island, where the Abu Sayyaf and other militant groups are active.

The separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front, a large insurgent group emerged in peace talks with the government, said this week it would intensify efforts to help rescue Stoddard's freedom in coordination with authorities.

'Last wish'

In the video, a bemused-looking Stoddard urged authorities to do all they could to secure his freedom.

"To my family, please do whatever to raise the US$2 million they are asking for my release," he said in the video obtained by Sydney Morning Herald.

"To the Australian Embassy here in the Philippines, this is your establishment appealing for his life, his safety. Please help me thanks."

Stoddard's wife Lorena Lopez told the Associated Press on Saturday that the kidnappers had contacted her with letters Christmas to demand an initial ransom of $20,000.

Task force

The Australian government has established a task force to investigate the kidnapping and the problem with the captors. Australia has a longstanding policy of refusing to pay ransoms.

The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade yesterday declined to comment on developments in the investigation.

Landslide kills 25 in South; dozens missing

From page A1

were digging tunnels and built their homes, Pantao said.

Mayorom and other villages of Pantukan sit on the gold-rich Mt. Diwata mountain range, first found in 1631 to 18 km from Brgy. Poblacion Pantukan and near Barangay Kingking, where 23 miners were killed in a similar landslide on flood Friday last year.

the landslides shortly occur amid heavy rain in the Municipals of the province, particularly Mt. Diwata, where small scale miners thrive, raising has been banned in three areas, according to Lito Matin, director of the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (DDRRMC).

"We expect more casualties," said Maj. Jacob Obligado, spokesperson of the Army's 10th ID.

'Totally unacceptable'

In Manila, Malacañang said it was "totally unacceptable" for the landslides in Compostela Valley to have happened and taken so many lives despite the warning given by high-ranking national officials and local executives in April last year.

President Aquino ordered Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo to look into the circumstances that led to the tragedy, according to presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda.

Robredo, Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin and Environment Secretary Ramon Paje have explicitly warned local government officials of the risks on the cliffs in the area, according to Lacierda.

"The responsibility of evacuating or doing a forced evacuation is with the local government officials. But having this thing happen, that is totally unacceptable," Lacierda said.

Yellow ribbon

A yellow ribbon cordon—if he says where the most landslide occurred. It can put up after the Good Friday landslide at Sitio Panoorin in Kingking, Mines said.

Last year, Gov. Jarvani Uy ordered the evacuation of residents in the landslide-prone areas, according to Lanzahan's mayor, secretary of the Municipal Development Authority. "Apparently, the residents who make a living from the mining" continued to reside in. Mayor said.

"This could be allowed to happen over and over again. An investigation should be in order to determine accountability and ensure the prevention of similar incidents in future things-prone areas," Aquino said.

Asked if certain officials would be made to answer for the loss of lives, Lacierda said, "there will be an investigation and, of course, there will be some responsibility."

His statement officials were expected to make sure citizens are safe and secure in their homes and workplaces. "You are elected to office to provide service in all homes and that includes ensuring the safety of your constituents," he said.

Geohazard maps

Lacierda said having geohazard maps would make ignorance of the danger no longer an excuse for local officials.

"You are particularly the geohazard map so there is no excuse for you to say, 'I'm not aware of that. We can't evacuate them because it's difficult to do so.' he said.

"This is no longer acceptable for us. If you are a mayor of a town and you've been given a geohazard map in this particular area, and to date for those that the Mines, what will you do?" President Aquino's spokesman said. "It's precisely reason of ensuring their safety is paramount?" Lacierda said.

Lacierda said geohazard maps were being made available to all municipalities concerned.

Return of miners

"Geohazard mapping is now being provided to allow all people to assess more. My understanding as well is that some natural disasters as well as some boundaries are going to be provided geohazard maps personally to those with the public the areas where there are

ONE OF the areas hit by the landslide in Pantukan

From page A1

hazardous areas," he said.

Malacañan Mayor Celso Lobregat said the local government had already cleared of people the areas declared landslide-prone by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau after the flood and landslide. He said there were no new areas that people started tunneling more and built more houses in the mining area.

Guerrilla tactic

Jun Rumpadao, regional director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, also said the latest landslide area was already cleared by the military and the police on April 24 last year, after the visit of Secretary Paje.

"But the people who earlier vacated the area (for) a possible storm by gradually coming back," Rumpadao said.

Lanzahan would not exactly say how many women or children were killed. There of the landslide dug up and brought to funeral parlors in the town, prepared tributes those of minors, he said.

Some of the fatalities were identified as Ary Tolentino, 34, and her sister Bea, 36, Susana Mesinguit, 46, of Bagtasbon, San Isidro, Enrico Quimodo, and Raul Tolentino, Alberto Sanchez, 23, and Fernando Dingdal, all of Western Village in Tagaytay City.

Dr. Rosario Bacomo, provincial health officer, said at least four of the 17 rescued so far were admitted to the hospital.

Bacomo said the Provincial social welfare office said local disaster teams had already been dispatched to the area. Reports from *Princess Lira, Bonnie Tandoc, Gamaliha Lacorte, Kathe Bondoc and Edwin Fernando in Jolo; Inquirer Mindanao, and Antonio Hernandez in Manila*

Senate losing patience, warns House panel

From page A1

the 11-member prosecuting panel.

Study rules

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile urged Tupas to study the rules of the impeachment court.

"Dom Tupas not authorized to signed the impeachment complaint? Tupas should study the rules. He is complainant? Absent prosecutor? should study the process if they are gentlemen lawyers?" said Enrile, who will sit as presiding officer of the impeachment court.

Tupas earlier explained that he could not be accused of grandstanding the next when he attended Corona's ceremony of the penthouse unit at The Bellagio's Two or I dare he had yet to enter his appearance in local proceedings in Impeachment.

In a phone interview, Enrile said it was "incredible" that the senator-judges would consider whether necessary would be imposed on Tupas and other House prosecutors involved in the case for contempt where the code and were revealed.

"What will we do with that government disclosure? We will discuss how to deal with? (Tupas). He cannot say the impeachment court does not have jurisdiction from since he became entry of appearance," the Senate President said.

Telegraphing punches

Still, Enrile indicated willing ness to be "lenient" toward Tupas and scrapping for the moment.

"The real problem is that they are telegraphing their punches. Aside from the fact that there no one might not sit well with the impeachment court," Enrile said in a text message.

House prosecutors on Tuesday revoked Corona's ownership of a 383.9-square-meter unit at Tower 1 of The Bellagio in Bonifacio Global City (BGC).

Hontoan ordered the house repair coming from an investment scarce, which claimed that Corona violated a two-bedroom condo unit worth P8 million to P9 million at Bonifacio Bellagio Taguig City.

"It's like you're conditioning the public mind that the person is already guilty. The risk now it does not and then someone," he said.

A source on the House panel disclosed were other properties allegedly owned by Corona—another condominium unit in Makati City and a house and lot in Quezon City.

However, enlightened Tupas who insisted that he and fellow prosecutors did not violate the impeachment rules by talking about the merits of the case in public before the actual trial.

"They're now interpreting the rules? Who authorized them to interpret the rules?" the senator said.

No more disclosure

Tupas said the members of the prosecution panel would stop disclosing to the public any additional piece of evidence against Corona in deference to some senator-judges who raised fear.

"So once disclosure of documented for the immediate or next day, it's where the beyond (the) begins. The public, at least, is well informed of our position," Tupas told the lawmaker.

Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago, the panel's deputy spokesperson, said the panel did not want to antagonize the Senate.

"I don't think there will be statement release officially of documents. We don't want to irritate the (ire of the Senate but of some senators," Angara told the lawmaker.

"We will respect the Senate rules with respect to the pieces who are barred from receiving documents. We don't want to irritate them," he added.

Angara, however, said that the panel would continue to inform the public about the progress and progress of the case.

Positive action

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel III warned that repeated entry by the House panel could merit punitive action.

Sen. Pimentel Lacson acknowledged the decision to cite several Sen. 16 when the beyond (the) begins. The public, at least, is well informed of our position," Tupas told the lawmaker

4,590 cops got US law enforcement training

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE US DEPARTMENT of Justice has provided investigative training to another 4,590 Philippine National Police (PNP) personnel on international criminal investigation during the past 12 months, bringing to more than 14,000 the number of Filipino law enforcers who have undergone the US State Department-funded programs.

In a report posted on its website, the US Embassy in Manila said the justice department's latest International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP) course was conducted from Oct. 5 to Dec. 16 at the PNP headquarters in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

Over 30 PNP personnel took part in the program, which the embassy says aims to "develop professional and competent law enforcement institutions that protect human rights, combat corruption and reduce the threat of transnational crime and violence."

Ictap, which works closely with the State Department, the US Agency for International Development and the Washington-an Millennium Challenge Corporation, "provides international development assistance that supports both national security and foreign policy objectives."

Cyber classroom

Aside from criminal investigation, Ictap cite, "promotes a comprehensive range of public safety development reportoir on mission and funded activities, resources, specialized and technical skills in police services, community policing, corrections, organizational development and information systems," according to the embassy.

The US has also recently turned over a new "cyber classroom" to the PNP Training Service unit at Camp Crame.

"Equipped with cyber training equipment and software, the classroom will be used to train PNP personnel within the agency's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and Anti-Transnational and Cyber Crimes Division," said another embassy report.

The classroom is worth, at least $100,000 (about Rs4 million), according to the mission.

The donation is part of the State Department's Anti-Terrorism Assistance Program, which "trains civilian security and law enforcement personnel from selected countries in police procedures that deal with terrorism."

"US Diplomatic Security personnel work with government and law enforcement officials (in host countries) to deliver effective training for bomb detection, crime scene investigation, airport and building security, motorcade protection and VIP protection," said the embassy.

Law enforcement aid

From nearly $449 million in 2010, the US increased its law enforcement aid to the Philippines to close to $450 million last year, including about P200 million for infrastructure projects.

The projects include a crime laboratory and barracks at the Philippine Public Safety College in Zambo anga City and a general-use facilities for the Philippine Army Engineer Agency in Bataan City.

The US has plans to put up a multi-use police station and training facility on Jolo Island in Sulu.

Washington's support for the government's law enforcement programs were in the form of "technical assistance, training facilities, and supply of equipment."

CONTEMPT OF COURT

Abalos lawyer faces jail time

By Jayson T. Gozali

THE LAWYER of former Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos has 10 days to appeal to Pasay City court's resolution holding him and Abalos in contempt—or he just might find himself in jail with his client.

On Dec. 27, the court hearing the electoral sabotage case against Abalos and former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, among others, ruled on its resolution holding Abalos and his lawyer, Brigida Dulay, in contempt for having accused Pasay Regional Trial Court Judge Jesus Mupas of relentless during a hearing last month.

Abalos and Dulay face fines of P2,000 and 10 days imprisonment each. While Abalos, who is already in detention at the Southern Police District headquarters, may only have to pay the fine, Dulay has 10 days to move to file an appeal or motion.

A legal researcher in Mupas' court, Rolly Iromango, said Mupas decided that the statements Abalos and Dulay made at a Dec. 16 hearing—charging which they filed a motion for inhibition against the judge—were "malicious, offensive and unsubstantiated."

Iromango said Mupas also ruled that the statements "tend to degrade the administration of justice and undermine the independence of the judiciary" and were made in a "scandalous and embarrassing manner."

In their motion for inhibition, Abalos and Dulay had accused Mupas of sending two resolutions to Abalos to offer him a favorable ruling in exchange for P100 million, Iromango said.

But Abalos' camp failed to substantiate the accusation amongst others they were given the chance to do so, Iromango said.

In his resolution, Mupas also asked the National Bureau of Investigation and Criminal Investigation and Detection Group to investigate Abalos' counterclaim story. He gave the two agencies 30 days to submit a report.

The motion for inhibition against the Filipino has yet to be resolved. The case hearing on the electoral sabotage case against Abalos and Arroyo has been set for Jan. 9.

Thomas Oliver Graves; 82

THOMAS Oliver Graves, of Bliss Spring Compound, Scotia Street, Barangay Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City, died on Jan. 2 at age 82. He is survived by his wife Cynthia Grace Graves and children Sarah Grace Graves, Carmen and David Blair Graves. His body lies at the Greenhills Memorial Chapel on Carmen St., Cagayan de Oro. Interment will be held tomorrow at the Greenhills Memorial Park after the 4 p.m. interdenominal Mass.

aboitiz ANNOUNCEMENT

SHAREHOLDERS

OF

aboitiz Equity Ventures

AboitizPower

Effective January 19, 2012, The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC) will be the official stock transfer agent of Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. and Aboitiz Power Corporation, replacing Securities Transfer Services, Inc. (STSI).

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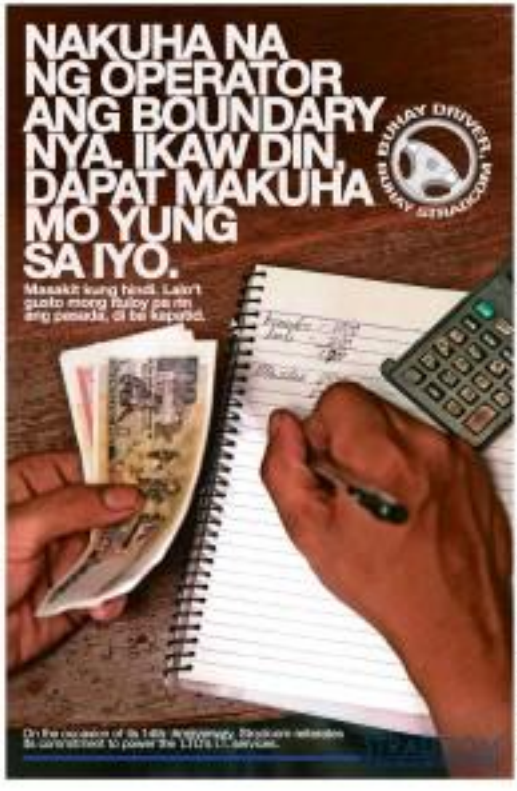
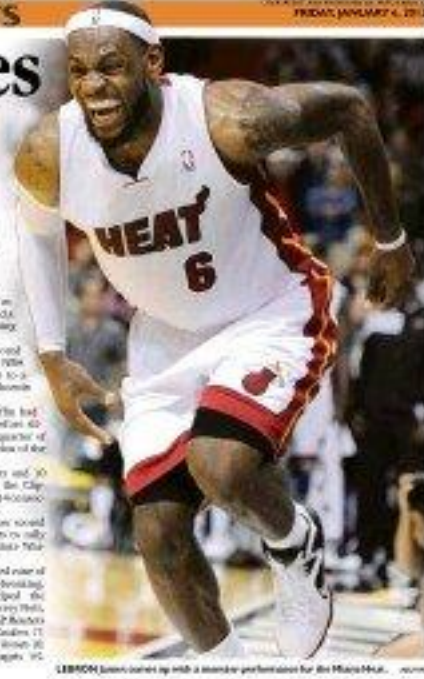


THE DAILY GOSPEL

Big game by James helps Heat buck absence of Wade



LEBRON James carries up with a monster performance for the Miami Heat... AFP/PL

MIAMI — So Dwyane Wade? No problem.

Coming off their first loss of the season, with one their "Big Three" out of commission, the Miami Heat roared to a LeBron James on a mission and have moved out a 110-83 demolition of the Indiana Pacers Wednesday in the NBA.

James carried the entire load designed on his shoulders by the absence of Wade, who currently missed a triple double, piling up 33 points, 13 assists and eight rebounds to give the Pacers all kinds of trouble.

While, a key component of Miami's "Big Three," set it out with a nagging knee injury.

"We were able to get a lot of different combinations (from James)," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra told reporters. "He had 13 assists [and] a lot of defensive plays and the rebounds in traffic really got us out in the spot court in the first half."

Two days ago, the Atlanta Hawks handed the Heat (6-1) their first setback. But no doubt's take long for Miami to get its swagger back.

The Heat started Indiana with a 35-12 second quarter run sparked by James Jones, who caught fire and went on to post a quick shutter of keys and finished with 14 points after starting in place of Wade.

Chris Bosh added 22 for the Heat, with a season high 27 points as Dwight Howard managed to score 20 points in his 3,000th NBA game to lead the Philadelphia 76ers to a 92-89 triumph over the Phoenix Suns.

In Los Angeles, Blake Griffin had 22 points and nine assists before 43-tying out most of the fourth quarter of the Clippers' 117-89 demolition of the Houston Rockets.

Chris Paul added 20 points and 10 assists plus three steals for the Clippers, extending his streak to 140 consecutive games with at least one.

In San Antonio, Tony Parker scored San Antonio's final six points to rally the Spurs past the Golden State Warriors, 104-99.

In Boston, Paul Pierce scored nine of his 24 points during a game-breaking, third-quarter run that helped the Celtics overcome the Nets Jersey Nets, 95-79. AP/Reuters

OTHER RESULTS: Boston 95, Cavaliers 77; Magic 100, Hornets 98; Nets 109, Kings 99; Bucks 91, Timberwolves 86; Rockets 102, Grizzlies 97.

Spotlight on UST, La Salle as UAAP tennis opens

By Cedelf P. Tapus

UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas and La Salle seek to continue their dominance in the UAAP Season 75 tennis tournament starting Saturday at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Both the Tigers and Lady Archers are gunning for their third straight title in the tournament that opens on the same weekend when the volleyball competitions resume.

UST, which has 14 titles in the men's division, including seven of the last 10, takes on defending National U of 9 a.m. on Saturday.

Women and University of the Philippines also meet at 9 a.m. with De La Salle and University of Perpetual squaring off at noon, the same time the Lady Eagles will be up against the Lady Warriors.

Scheduled on Sunday are matches pitting UP against NU and UE against UST at 9 a.m., and De La Salle against Ateneo at noon.

La Salle begins its defense of its women's title against UST on Sunday. The Tigresses are expected to challenge the Lady Archers for the title this season.

UST and La Salle have split the titles equally the past 10 years.

The volleyball tilt resumes Saturday with Ateneo and Letran ranging at 9 a.m. and De La Salle and UP at 11:30 a.m. colliding in the men's division.

Ortezas battle for 16-U title

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SISTERS Isabella and Kristina Ortezas took care of their respective semifinal opponents yesterday and secured the family of the girls' 16-under title in the 22nd Asaltada Cup Group 1 tennis tournament at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Isabella and Kristina, whose mother Kay is a source of former national tennis players Jun and Edno and Philippine tennis chief Edwin Olivarez, handled top seed Roxanne Bersan, 6-3, 7-6(1), 6-0, and Maria Angela Ibanga, 6-1, 6-4, respectively to advance to the finals.

Both key players for the 2011 Interschool Tennis Association champion team De La Salle-Dasmariñas, the Ortezas had been in the same situation last year when they defeated the Manila Polo Club-Mendiola Lee tandem in 16-under category won by 13-year-old Kristina.

The 14-year-old Isabella, the higher ranked at 1,256th in the world juniors, then went on to claim the 14-under top place of the MPC tournament.

Top seed Michael Francis Eala dominated the daughter of Philippine Tennis stone-thrower Jose Enrique Asdis, 6-2, 6-3, to secure a 6-title berth.

Eala will take on Alper Sarikaya, who checked second seed Diego David Dalisay-Delgado four Enrique Asdis, 6-2, 6-3, to secure a 6-title berth.

NLEX wallops RnW; PC Gilmore scores

By Cedelf P. Tapus

NLEX used a fiery start to routine Rain or Shine Pacific Pipes, 106-76, yesterday for its sixth straight win in the PBA D-League Aspirants Cup at the Mendiola Gym.

The Road Warriors turned to Bill Kinrich in pulling away early and limited the Pacific Pipes to 7-1, assuming themselves of at least a playoff berth for its two-game semifinal berth.

PC Gilmore also got off to a blistering opening-quarter charge and overwhelmed Blackwater, 43-11, to stay in the fight for a quarterfinal berth.

Paolo Dela and Jun Vidal came through with 13 points each as the Wildcats notched their fourth straight win after a two-fall 0-3 start.

More than the overlooking victory, PC Gilmore coach Art Dela Cruz said their one of elements have instilled a strong belief within the team that they can still make the playoffs.

"We are really believe we'll make the quarterfinal," said Dela Cruz. "But our job is not yet over. We have one more game to win."

The Wildcats' playoff hopes will hinge on the outcome of their duel against fellow quarterfinal aspirant Brownlee Team (4-5).

Garcia mailed a triple that set off a 14-0 burst in the opening quarter, putting the Road Warriors in total control against a Pacific Pipes squad still hoping to gain one of the two tickets to host in-contrivers for the quarterfinals.

The Bo Kimber, 17 guard hooked six of seven 3-point shots and finished with 22 points, while Gervo Lanete, Cliff Hodge, Jun Magdangal and Calvin Abueva dished out double-digit outputs for the Road Warriors.

The cross-town rivals failed to calm the storm of NLEX coach Boyet Fernandez, who is looking forward to the Jan. 12 meeting against semifinalist Gebesaan Shelter.

"Anything can still happen so we have to win against Gebesaan next week," said Fernandez.

With the loss, the Road Warriors, at 6-4, saved to win their remaining race

VIRGIL Ravenscroft of Pacific Pipes tries to disrupt the defense of NLEX big man Dave Marcelo. AUGUST SIM/INQ

games to claim a quarterfinal berth.

Playing their first game in a month, the Elite were sluggish, allowing the Wizards to take an 11-4 lead behind the hot shooting of Taha and Al Mishaal.

The fourth straight loss of the Elite dropped them to 3-6. Although they remain in quarterfinal contention.

Blackwater came within 27-24 on back-to-back ways by Joseph Marata in the first quarter, but the Wizards were up to the challenge, downing eight unanswered points.

The game:
PACIFIC PIPES (76) – Jones 11, Aldo 12, Alcoseba 10, Tuazon 8, Bandal'a 4, Capote 3, Cruz 7, Ramos 2, Ramirez 2, Agbay 4, Lim 2, Bernal 2, Sy 0, Ramos 0, Ramos 0, Ramos

Pacquiao set to smash Tyson's PPV record

By Roy Luarca

MANNY Pacquiao's back-to-back box-office hits against Shane Mosley and Juan Manuel Marquez last year have cemented the Filipino ring icon's reputation as pay-per-view (PPV) king of his generation.

In beating Marquez by majority decision in their third duel last November, the eight-division world champion chalked up his best PPV buys ever at 1,410,000, according to a report by Dave Meltzer of Yahoo! Sports.

It surpassed the 1.3 million PPV buys (1-1 million, according to Yahoo) Pacquiao posted when he dismissed Shane Mosley last May and was far better than the 1.22-million PPV hits Floyd Mayweather Jr. registered when he stopped Victor Ortiz in (controversial fashion) last Sept. 17.

The 33-year-old Pacquiao thus joined Mike Tyson as the only boxers to have at least two certified hits in a year in the span of his popularity in 1990s. Tyson breathed the PPV million mark three against Evander Holyfield, Bruce Seldon and Frank Bruno, respectively.

With this fights generating at least 1 million PPV buys in the last four years, Pacquiao is in prime position to shatter Tyson's record of six fights with over a million buys in his career.

Pacquiao wants to remain in the ring either in May or June, and if Mayweather—who will start serving his three-month prison term on Friday (Saturday in Manila)—agrees to a megabuck bout in November, Tyson's mark will be shattered.

Pacquiao's shock loss when he stopped Oscar De La Hoya in the eighth round in 2008 is reached 1.25 million PPV sales, a figure matched by his 12th-round stoppage of Miguel Cotto in 2009.

Pacquiao's spectacular 12-round destruction of Antonio Margarito in 2010 garnered 1.15 million PPV buys.

Debunking the myth that Mayweather is "boxing's top draw, Pacquiao also humbled the unbeaten American in five unanswered.

Pacquiao-Marquez II was seen by a sell-out crowd of 16,000 and generated $11.65 million in gate receipts, while Mayweather's division with Ortiz Marquez attracted 13,538 fans and sold $8,811,300.

Promoter Bob Arum is arriving in Manila on Tuesday to confer with Pacquiao on the Top Rank representative's next opponent.

PACQUIAO: Boxing's top draw

TNT repulses Petron for 1-0 lead

From page A20

game since last season, exploded for 22 points, 15 of them coming from beyond the arc as the Texters established leads of as big as 13 points several times before holding off the Boosters.

Petron, which spent the Texters in the Governors' Cup finals in April what would have just been the 10th Grand Slam in the league, never gave up and with Alex Cabagnot's heroics in the second half to make a game out of it.

"It's just one game, all it does is give us a headstart," Reyes added.

Reyes finally got the reinforcement of all his reputation-making cop, and he more than three quarters, it seemed like it was too much to handle for Boosters.

But Cabagnot almost single-handedly brought the Boosters back.

After being held scoreless in the first half, Cabagnot erupted for 11 in the third period and had nine in the fourth, his last two free throws putting the Boosters within 83-80 with 1:22 left and with a solid chance to save things around.

Only after a missed three-point attempt by rookie Chris Ivan for Petron, which came after two Rotsidet free throws off Arwind Santos' last foul with 16.9 ticks left, did the Texters finally put the game to bed.

Game 2 is slated tomorrow at the Smart Araneta Coliseum and the Texters, like Rain or Shine, which also leads 1-0 in its series with Talk 'N Text, will try to become the 11th straight team to win a best-of-seven series after taking Game 1.

Meanwhile, Rain or Shine was to eighteen the season-ender Wednesday when the Elasto Painters gun for a 2-0 lead over the Tigers in the resumption of their team-less all-seven-to-decide Philippine Cup.

Scores:
TNT (Ayala) 83 - Reyes 22, Williams 14, Castro 10, Ilisan 9, Ilisan 9, Pinto 7, Aguilar 5, Castro 5, Castelo 0, Cruz 0, Enriquez 0, Ilisan 0.
PETRON (Cabagnot) 80 - Ilisan 22, Ilisan 15, Ilisan 10, Aguilar 7, Ilisan 5, Ilisan 5, Ilisan 5, Aguilar 5, Ilisan 5, Ilisan 5, Ilisan 5, Ilisan 5, Ilisan 5.
Quarters: 25-18, 46-36, 58-61, 83-80.

CLOSE: Mondilla prepares to putt on No. 10 of Cogolf North.

Carlos, Mondilla share PH Am lead with Foo

By Musong R. Castillo

CAMILIRANG—Seasoned international Jobbin Carlos and Clyde Mondilla churned out contrasting versions of 2-under-par 70s yesterday to share the opening-round lead with Singapore's Gregory Foo in the 2012 Philippine Amateur Open championship.

Carlos, the bespectacled 49-year-old regional as the lone amateur in the lead, finished bogey-bogey-par to salvage a 34-36 card, while Mondilla birdied the close eighth, his penultimate hole, to keep pace with the more heralded foreigner in the field.

Foo, Singapore's former national champion and sportsbred of his national team, could have taken the solo lead but for a third bogey for the day on the finishing hole of the tough North course at Cogolf here.

The leading trio stood a stroke clear of Del Monte's Leonard Ledesma in the event presented by Tandang Pascual Oreste, Alejandro Espina and Elaine Teleronia.

Mondilla, the former champion who has been away from amateur competition this year, on his home course of Del Monte, three years ago, eagled the par-5 17th and was tracking on a three-under card after a birdie on No. 1, by 100-footer, before dropping two consecutive shots from No. 4.

Carlos also missed a chance to grab the lead on his own after miscalculating his second shot on the 17th and dumping his 7-foot eagle-to-tie putt for second.

"It would have been better," said Carlos, who is chasing his first Open championship at home. "There were several lapses for me out there. But I still like where I am now."

Carlos finished with four birdies for his first.

Sally-Andrew Saldaña, the Alabang standout in the SEA Interclubs, Lawrence Celestino and Korean expatriate Choi Jin-sung all matched par 72 to be just two behind.

Jerome Ng, the other speathead of the track Singaporean contingent, was in a group that scored 73s while Gabriel Wanamar, another former video host of Philippine Amateur champion, scored a 74.

Reigning men's and boys' search play champion Rupert Zaragoza floundered on the back nine of his home course with a 43 and subsequent a 79 that put him in a very precarious position going into today's second round.

Lourdes Garagulo took a double bogey on the 17th but held on for a one-stroke lead over Dottie Ardina in ladies' play.

Their competitors occupied the rest of the top 10 places, with Odessa Espanol shooting a 73 like Sarah Abalos and national team member Andie Unson.

Amelia Sing, Singapore's reigning ladies' champion, returned an 80 and would need a low second today to make the final round on Sunday.

The leading scores (Philippines unless noted):
MEN (9—): Jobbin Carlos 34-36, Clyde Mondilla 36-34, Gregory Foo (Singapore) 36-36, Leonard Ledesma 36-36, Sally-Andrew Saldaña 36-36, Lawrence Celestino 36-36, Choi Jin-sung (Korea) 36-36, Jerome Ng (Singapore) 36-37, Gabriel Wanamar 37-36, Rupert Zaragoza 36-43, Jonathan Ilisan 37-38, Ilisan Ilisan 37-38, Ilisan Ilisan 37-38, Ilis

ROB Allyn of Petron looks upon Aguilar as the TNT forward goes up a shot in last night's game. ANDY ZATA

SPORTS
Editor Teddrick S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

Talk 'N Text repulses Petron for 1-0 lead

By Marlowe R. Cardillo

DEPTH, a shaky finish that left its coach disgusted, Talk 'N Text had eight more saves to go Petron Blaze, 67-63, for a 1-0 lead in their best-of-seven PBA Philippine Cup semifinal series at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay.

Comfortably ahead for most of the night, the defending champion Tropang Texters barely survived the hard-finishing Boosters, ending none of their saves by Petron and some clutch free throws by Larry Fonacier to gain an edge.

"We should close games out better," coach Chot Reyes told reporters with a sombre face. "It was a very disappointing way to finish. Fortunately, our defense held out for the crucial part."

Fonacier, the only star in the Talk 'N Text lineup never to cross

(168, 10 P

GLOBE BUSINESS PARTNERS NIGHT ROCKS

It was a night of gratitude, black leather jackets and head-banging rock music as Globe Business celebrated its annual Partners Night last 15th of December at the Craft Pub & Grill, Fort Bonifacio Strip in Taguig City.

Globe International and Business Markets Head Gil Genio opened the night with his welcome remarks. Afterwhich, Year End Messages were delivered by Globe Business Enterprise Head Grace Cuaddle and Globe Business Head Jesus Romero. The "Party Like A Rockstar" event would not be complete without the dynamic Cipher Groove Motivational Crew, serving the stage award: Globe Business Best Channel Party of the Year for 2011.

Fun games and raffle draws were held throughout the evening with lucky participants taking home awesome prizes. And for the grand draw, Globe Business gave away a Sony Home Theater System, a Sony Playstation 3, Sony iPad 2's, an Asus Tablet Laptop, a Samsung Galaxy Tab, free airfare and accommodation at Miramar Shangri-la and an Apple MacBook Air.

The night's festivities were capped by electrifying performances by premiere glam rock band NYFF and the iconic Jolt Penigen of The Dawn. What a way for Globe Business to end 2011 on a high and very loud note!

Globe Business

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Aplus METRO
Editor Abelardo S. Ulandey

Tighter security in Quiapo rites urged

Bishop cites reports of extremists who may disrupt religious event

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A CATHOLIC bishop has called on the police and military to intensify security during the feast of the Black Nazarene on Monday, saying that reports of foreign extremists were actively moving about in southern Mindanao should not be taken for granted.

Jaroslav Bishop Arturo Bastes said the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines must take action on the reports especially when a second-rank militant leader Custodio Ombrid are expected to converge in the biggest religious event in Quiapo.

"I appeal to the authorities to be [aggressive] in their security. ... we must remember that terrorists have the capability to kill people en masse as in Nigeria where so many Christians were killed during Christmas Day," Bastes said over the Church-run Radio Veritas Wednesday.

Bastes was referring to the attacks on Christians of a Muslim militant group Boko Haram. The group bombed several churches in northern Nigeria on Dec. 25, just as churchgoers were streaming out after celebrating Christmas Mass. The attacks killed at least 39 people.

Concerns

Bastes raised his concerns after an AFP military commander disclosed that at least five foreign extremists have been hiding on a remote island in Mindanao and could help connect Filipino terrorists to financiers and combat trainers like the al-Qaida-involved network.

"Let us not take it for granted. Let the PNP and AFP order action to this especially their intelligence since they are the ones capable of detecting the presence of terrorists," said the prelate.

On alert

In a joint briefing on Tuesday, security officials tasked to ensure the safety of the multitudes of Black Nazarene devotees on Monday assured the public that they were on alert and have not monitored any threats so far.

The Manila Police District was fielding 1,800 policemen to ensure an area of one kilometer and the route of the procession. Other police districts will be deploying 800 more to provide assistance to the MPD. Traffic enforcers will also be deployed to assist motorists.

While classes in all public schools in Manila have already been ordered suspended, Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim appealed to private schools—particularly those in the University Belt—to do the same.

Lim said it was best to suspend classes so that they do not risk the safety of students.

He also advised devotees against drinking and bringing alcohol, wearing jewelries and bringing along children with them during the procession.

RELATED STORIES

Garbage a bigger problem during feast day / A22

LRT trains ready to take in barefoot devotees / A22

No classes in 8 schools along procession route

THERE will be no classes in eight public schools in areas of Manila which will be going to the procession of the Black Nazarene on Monday, according to Mayor Alfredo S. Lim.

In a statement issued on Thursday, Ricardo de Guzman, city chief of staff and Manila Barrio Band, identified the schools as City College of Manila, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, Manila Science High School, Arnaldo High School, Manila High School, Mabini Elementary School, Antonio Maria High School and Santiago High School.

Meanwhile, Lim said that it was up to the private schools and those located outside

Garbage a bigger problem on the Feast of the Black Nazarene

By Kevin Bonoan
Reporter

AUTHORITIES in Manila are constantly beefing up their preparations as they expect a rise in the number of devotees who will join the Feast of the Black Nazarene on Monday, but Manila Department of Public Services head Carlos Bulaong says the size of waste, left in the wake of the procession, is a bigger and much more challenging issue.

Bulaong spoke to reporters after environment watchdog EcoWaste Coalition and Bantay Tae urged city and village authorities to move portable toilets, trash racks and bins, and improved enforcement of regulations against littering during the procession.

Difficult feat

Bulaong said that they were well prepared and coordinated but admitted that the task of cleaning the debris of the procession was a difficult feat, owing to the hundreds of sweepers they intend to deploy.

He said the sweepers would be limited not just like janitors, to keep the procession's marker clean and free of obstructions.

To the environment watchdog's plea for more portable toilets, Bulaong said the city government would put 10 portalets in various areas along the procession route. He added that the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority would also provide additional portalets.

Reckless littering

EcoWaste Coalition Aspen project coordinator for Project Human Waste Lauren Lantin said their effort was the problem was that people recklessly throw garbage during the event. "We even had to clean human waste," she said.

The group cited data from the DPS, showing that the Plaza Miranda-Quiapo area alone generates 50 cubic meters of garbage on normal days. "What more, if eight to nine million people congregate in the area for a single event," the group said.

Lantin cautioned that a wasteful celebration, even if placed in strategic places, could not cancel out the efforts of environmentally friendly groups during the call of nature, especially after the procession has started. He said that it may be unrealistic for some to relieve themselves on the spot.

"This is why this year, we have assigned trucks to facilitate the movement of non-performers. Strategic as they may, evaluate in nature," explained the DPS chief, saying that they have assigned 18 trucks for the event, nine of them for Quiapo and the remaining nine for Quiapo.

He said that as per the latest meeting with concerned agencies, six hospitals were prepared to take in devotees who may fall ill or become injured and 28 ambulances would be stationed along the procession route. Open manholes have also been covered and streets to be used for the procession were laid with new asphalt. Street obstructions have been cleared, Bulaong added.

Barangay 306 Zone 30 Senior El Chair Joey Jamesola said regular announcements on the locations of the medical stations and ambulances during the event will be made.

The Manila Police District has also formed a task group focusing on the security preparations for the feast and would deploy some 1,600 officers to ensure peace and order.

Despite the difficult task ahead, Bulaong assured the public that they would stick to their duties, remaining optimistic about this year's preparations and saying that they were hopeful that everything would be "back to normal after the event."

To the devotees, Jamesola urged: "Take your garbage home with you, if possible."

SPEEDY action from Robbed Tao and EcoWaste Coalition appeal to Black Nazarene devotees for a garbage-free and injury-free fiesta on Jan. 9

LRT trains ready to take in barefoot devotees going to Quiapo pilgrimage

By Paola G. Mantesillo

AS IS TRADITION, barefoot passengers will be allowed to board Light Rail Transit (LRT) trains on Monday as devotees make their pilgrimage to Manila to celebrate the feast of the Black Nazarene.

The LRT Authority (LRTA) on Thursday said the trains, scheduled to run from 4 a.m. to 9 p.m., will be specially fitted with rubber mats at the entrances of the Roosevelt, Monumento, Central Terminal, Carriedo, Doroteo Jose, Bambang, Blumentritt, Abad Santos, R. Papa, 5th Avenue, Gil Puyat, Libertad, EDSA, Baclaran, Redemptorist-Aseana, Asia World, Ninoy Aquino International Airport 1, Ninoy Aquino International Airport 2 and PITX stations.

The mats will be placed on the platforms and inside the trains to prevent passengers from getting injured by broken glass and other sharp objects.

Additional security and safety personnel will be set up at all LRT stations.

Additional train and Philippine National Red Cross volunteers will also be fielded at EDSA and Carriedo stations from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Rodriguez said LRT line 1, the oldest commuter train line in Metro Manila, recorded one of the highest volumes of passengers in its history on Jan. 9, 2009, during the celebrations of the Black Nazarene feast.

Earlier this week, Msgr. Jose Ocampo Ignacio, rector of the Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene, said at least eight million people are expected to join the Black Nazarene procession for a glimpse or a touch of the miraculous image. This is higher than the seven million devotees that attended last year's feast.

He said the number of attendees has grown every year, which means devotees around the country asking for their own pilgrim image of the statue in Christ is on extended repentance.

MetroBriefs

Woman shot dead while chatting with male friends

A WOMAN was killed while two of her friends were hurt after two men shot them in front of her house on Wednesday night in Quezon City, Rosella Garay, 42, of Malipay Park in Novaliches, died at around 7:45 p.m. while being treated at Commonwealth Hospital. Case investigator PO2 Clemente Ilagan of the Quezon City Police District Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit said Garay's friends, Joseph Gaw Ian and Del James Rosario, both 18, sustained gunshot wounds but survived the attack. The three were chatting in front of Garay's house when two armed men suddenly appeared and shot Garay and Rosario. Gaw Ian was shot in the head and back, Rosario was hit in the body by a stray bullet. The two gunmen then escaped on their motorcycle, where their two companions were waiting for them. **Julie M. Aurelio**

Sister-in-law of cop-owner of firecracker stall charged

CHARGES have been filed against the sister-in-law of a policeman, the alleged owner of an illegal firecracker stall that caused a fire in Quezon City last week, Judge Betty Angel Pascasio of detained weapon and violation of Republic Act (RA) 9516 regulating the manufacture, sale, and the use of firecrackers and Pyrotechnic Devices/and Articles and Recklessly Imprudence charges against Cecilia Ortiz, 40, a resident of Barangay Pasong Putik, Quezon City. Ortiz, however, recommended a bail bond of P72,000 for each charge. Assistant City Prosecutor Ellen Valdez, however, recommended a bail bond of P36,000 for each charge. Judge Pascasio also ordered Ortiz to post bail and ordered her arraigned on April 18. Ortiz is the sister-in-law of Police Senior Inspector Ricardo Ortiz, a member of the Quezon City Police District Station 5 (Novaliches). Ricardo Ortiz was also charged with violation of RA 9516 and Reckless Imprudence Resulting in Damage to Property. Ortiz was arrested by police on Jan. 2 after a fire broke out in the firecracker stall in Barangay Pasong Putik, Quezon City. The fire destroyed the stall and damaged two houses. **Julie M. Aurelio**

Maynilad offers septic tank cleaning in selected areas

MAYNILAD is offering septic tank cleaning services this month to its customers in select parts of Quezon City, Manila, Caloocan, Valenzuela, Malabon, Mandaluyong, Las Piñas, Parañaque, and Pateros as announced. Maynilad customers in Bagong Silang, Bagong Barangay, Bagong Pag-asa, Bagong Silangan, Batasan Hills, Commonwealth, Culiat, Fairview, Gulod Novaliches, Holy Spirit, Payatas, Pasong Putik Proper, Sauyo, Tandang Sora, Tatalon, Unang Sigaw, Vasra, and Villa Maria Clara in Quezon City; Bagong Barrio, Barangka Drive, Barangka Ibaba, Barangka Ilaya, Barangka Itaas, Buayang Bato, Burol, Daang Bakal, Hagdang Bato Itaas, Hagdang Bato Libis, Harapin Ang Bukas, Highway Hills, Hulo, Mabini-J. Rizal, Malamig, Mauway, Namayan, New Zaniga, Old Zaniga, Pag-asa, Plainview, Pleasant Hills, Poblacion, Pulang Lupa Dos, Pulang Lupa Uno, Sacred Heart, San Jose, Santa Cruz, Santo Niño, Shaw Boulevard, Vergara, Wack-Wack Greenhills, Addition Hills, Bagong Silang, Barangka Ilaya

WORLD BRIEFS

Texas police kill 8th-grader carrying pellet gun

BROWNSVILLE, Texas – Police shot and killed an eighth-grader in the hallway of his middle school on Wednesday after the boy reportedly aimed what looked like a handgun and pointed it at officers. It turned out to be a pellet gun that closely resembled the real thing. The 13-year-old "fatalistically or approximately knew the gun and failed to the officers' orders, and he didn't want to," Interim Police Chief Orlando Rodriguez said. Shortly before the confrontation, Jaime Sosa-Bahuet walked into a classroom and punched a teacher boy in the nose for an apparent reason. Police did not know who he pulled out the weapon. Tella Wise, Brooke Bell, this was a way to bring attention to himself." The police chief said a classroom did not threaten students or teachers, and no one else was hurt. AP

Argentine president OK after cancer surgery

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina – Argentina's president was awake and recovering on Wednesday after a U.S. team specialist to remove her cancerous thyroid gland. Cristina Fernández's surgery went without complications and all her vital signs were good, her spokesman Alfredo Scoccimarro announced, prompting cheers and applause from supporters gathered outside the hospital. Doctors had suspected a swollen thyroid gland could be cancer and soon without chemotherapy, since preservation tests showed the cancer had not spread beyond a nodule on the right side of her thyroid gland. Vice President Amado Boudou was put in charge during her absence, and will remain as the country's constitutional leader for 20 more days while fernández takes medical leave, the spokesman said. Previously, 58, was found to have papillary thyroid carcinoma shortly after beginning her second four-year term as Argentina's leader last month. Her doctors said Experts say the cat removals she denied to routine as cancer recurrence rate low, although they recommend a re-exit ultrasound be given could take care so the damage could be never find outside the next 20-25, or to remove other suspected parathyroids, which regulate the body's calcium levels. AP

LA bishop admits bothering 2 kids, resigns

LOS ANGELES — The resignation of an Los Angeles bishop who fathered two children has shocked the nation's most populous Roman Catholic archdiocese, where Auxiliary Bishop Gabino Zavala grew up and was an outspoken supporter of causes dear to the large Hispanic population. Zavala, 60, who once urged Catholic media to report scandals such as clergy sex abuse "in a spirit of love and mercy," lost his resignation accepted on Wednesday by Pope Benedict XVI. Roman Catholic canon law permits bishops to step down earlier than the normal retirement age of 75 if they are sick or otherwise unfit for office. "This is unexpected, and one that something pains for many people who know and like Bishop Zavala," archdiocesan spokesperson Tod Tamberg said. "We wish him well as he moves here. He has many friends in Los Angeles and certainly very well-known here." Tamberg said he knew nothing about Zavala's affair or why he left it involved consenting adults and that no church funds were used. AP

Glitch in China train ticket system sparks fury

BEIJING — A computerized ticketing system in China that was created to help millions of migrant workers buy train tickets home for the Chinese New Year holiday crashed within minutes on its launch, angering thousands of Chinese on Thursday. The tickets went on sale through the internet last week, but the system handling the online bookings crashed due to overwhelming demand, according to the railways ministry. Chinese New Year, or Spring Festival, is the biggest of two "Golden Week" holidays, giving migrant workers their only chance of the year to return to their home provinces with gifts for their families. More than 200 million people are expected to take to the railways over this year's holiday, the biggest movement of humanity in the world. Reuters

Bachmann out, Perry in, Santorum up in GOP race to challenge Obama

DES MOINES, Iowa | MASON BEEBE, SUR. – Michele Bachmann was out, Rick Perry was back and Rick Santorum was up in the most volatile Republican presidential nominating contest in decades on Wednesday, as conservative Republicans searched for an alternative to frontrunner Mitt Romney.

Bachmann, a U.S. congressman from Minnesota, dropped down after a distant sixth place finish in the first Republican nominating contest in Iowa, which was decided by a margin of 8 votes out of the 122,000 cast.

Perry, the governor of Texas, stayed in the race despite media chatter having he would drop out.

Frustrated at conservatives' failure to unite behind a single candidate, Christian conservative leaders planned a Texas meeting this weekend to thrash out strategy.

The candidate may turn out to be Santorum, a former US senator from Pennsylvania, who came a close second to Romney in Tuesday's Republican Iowa vote, which kicked off the 2012 presidential election cycle.

Santorum surges into New Hampshire buoyed by the Iowa result. His campaign said he had raised $1 million in the last 24 hours.

BACHMANN

PERRY

SANTORUM

Santorum told Fox News' "The O'Reilly Factor" that "we're going to do surprisingly well" in New Hampshire. "We're going to be a much bigger player in these next couple of weeks."

A CNN poll showed Santorum doubling his support to 13 percent in New Hampshire, although he remained far behind Romney, a former governor of neighboring Massachusetts.

Perry and Bachmann, meanwhile, have struggled to break above the 25-percent level in national polls of Republicans in the race to choose a challenger to President Barack Obama for November's presidential election.

He has a solid campaign in Iowa's many and is focused on his family win the Iowa. In New Hampshire primary. Romney picked up the endorsement of Senator John McCain, who won the party's nominee in 2008.

"I'm really here for one reason and one reason only, and that is that we make Mitt Romney the next president of the United States of America," the Gate said at a rally in Manchester, New Hampshire. "And New Hampshire is the state that will catapult him to victory in a very short period of time."

An offer thought in the second, Rick Santorum, could have difficulty scaling up his campaign to compete in other states.

On Wednesday, his website temporarily crashed under a deluge of traffic. Santorum has escaped close scrutiny so far, but doubts have plenty to work with. His views on social issues are a Washington outside at a time when unemployment anger is running high. As a congressman, Santorum led an effort to link Republicans closely with lobbying interests before voters threw him out of office by an 18-point margin in 2006.

His career out of public office could raise more issues as well: his million-dollar plus income in 2010 included consultant payments from a lobbying firm and a hospital group that was hit with two lawsuits for allegedly defrauding the federal government.

Conservative voters have been all nearly even other candidates in the race in the mid-9-points polls over the past six months.

Another hopeful who has seven his support ensemble, Perry decided to stay in the race after another seeing he would reassess his campaign after a disappointing finish in Iowa.

"We are going to go into places where they have retail primaries and caucuses and are going to be real Republicans voting," Perry told reporters, referring to New Hampshire and South Carolina.

The unsettled nomination race—which pollster Gallup said was the most topsy-turvy in 50 years—also leaves an opening for Texas Governor Rick Perry, a conservative Speaker Newt Gingrich or Perry if Romney can't connect with more voters. Reuters

China tycoon dies after eating poisoned cat stew

SHANGHAI — There was one very disagreeable ingredient in the steaming hot pot of stew that may have killed a Chinese tycoon. And it wasn't the cat meat.

The police have detained a local township official on suspicion that he murdered the tycoon, a business associate who may have caught him cheating, by dropping a cyanide tablet into a cat-meat hot pot, a dissent says that is a local delicacy. China's state-run media reported on Wednesday.

The case became an online sensation after the police said they had detained the local official, Huang Huang, who had also been hospitalized with food poisoning after the Dec. 23 lunch, in the city of Fangjiang in southern Guangdong province.

The police now suspect that Huang slipped Gebenshuan officials, a professional herb, into the stew while eating lunch with the tycoon, Long Luyuan. All, who was a township company, and considers friend. To avoid suspicion, Huang apparently ate some of the stew himself. All three men were hospitalized, according to the police account, and Long died almost immediately.

The police then discovered evidence that Huang had embezzled money from Long and detained him Dec. 30.

The police account, Huang, who served as the deputy director of the Baile Township agricultural Office, of taking the funds after helping Long acquire a forestry farming contract in the region. NYTW

EastWest Bank gears up for 2012

As the financial industry prepares to usher in a brand new year, EastWest Bank gears up for a bigger and bolder year ahead.

Earlier last year, EastWest Bank unveiled an upgraded corporate persona reflecting its renewed commitment to become a dynamic positive change in the Philippine banking. The company adopted a new logo as well as new corporate colors. The logo is created from two arrows, aptly described as chevrons, representing the East and West, being together to result in synergy. The bold icons of the logo unlock to on the shape of a diamond, symbolizing the value that the Bank creates on the lives of its clients through its products and services. EastWest chose green, purple and magenta as its new corporate colors primarily for their uniqueness in the banking industry as well as the environment and client-service thinking that these shades denote.

To complete the branding and marketing revamp, EastWest Bank also came up with a new company tagline, "Your Dream Our Focus," which echoes its client-first commitment to help customers achieve their dreams. The customer-centric tagline is also an "experience-based assurance – "We make good things happen" — which aims to propagate the bank's culture of being a world-class provider of service excellence.

The company's corporate rebranding exercise is a timely response to EastWest Bank's successes over the past several years. From total assets amounting to P90 billion in 2005, the Bank has total assets of P90 billion to date, which represents a compounded annual growth rate of 28% since 2005. Moreover, EastWest Bank is one of the country's fastest-growing and most profitable banks in terms of equity and returns on assets today. And in 2010, the bank's net income displayed a tremendous threefold growth of 191.8% to P1.81 billion versus 2009 while return on stockholders' equity grew by almost 3 times to further cement EastWest's largest gains in terms of 2010 profits vs. 2009 income. As such, EastWest earned the nod of "The Asian Banker, a multinational company that provides business intelligence on the financial services industry, as one of Asia's 500 strongest banking institutions.

The company also added eight new branches in 2011 as part of an ongoing effort to expand its reach and, by the third quarter of 2011, acquired the Green Bank of Caraga in Butuan City, and Rizal Bank based in Makati, the latter's investible product. The EastWest Bank client cost, which can be used for cashless shopping and also for receiving remittances.

With a new corporate signature and 2011 being a year full of landmark accomplishments, the company is confident that 2012 will be another year filled with prime opportunities for bigger growth. The bank is also looking at tapping asset and business growth by 2014 as well as pursuing aggressive expansion plans to reinforce the company's national footprint.

While major world economies continue to face a bleak economic outlook in 2012, EastWest Bank Chairman Jonathan T. Gotianun has expressed confidence that, "The Philippines is definitely on a growth path and can face the next coming years with a positive outlook."

Armed with a new and improved logo, a more customer-centric tagline and a refreshed corporate battle plan, EastWest Bank hopes to compete head-on with its much bigger counterparts and cement its status in the local banking industry.

EastWest Bank is a subsidiary of the Filipino-owned Metrobank Corporation (PDC) and a member of the Filipinod Group. PDC is one of the country's premiere conglomerates with various business interests including real estate and sugar. Over the years, EastWest's impressive growth and reputation has been leveraged by this financial strength and synergy of its co-members under the Filipinod Group.

Words of encouragement from the Dream Big Win Big Promo first monthly draw winners

Lipper Manuela has both been a checking account and a peso time deposit client with Eastwest Bank for more than seven years now. She has bagged all of her other credit cards issued by EastWest Bank, which is the first bank she has ever had a relationship with. Her confidence is manifest. When she first received the wonderful news proclaiming her as one of EastWest Bank's Dream Big Win Big 2011/2012 monthly draw winners, she was very amazed. However, the "Kilig" feeling, which she says, was exactly the same emotion that she had been waiting all getting.

"It was completely great birthday and Christmas gift to me. It was perfect because the Samsung Netbook, which that my son finds the past number of months was actually what I won in the Dream Big Win Big promo with EastWest Bank. I also had an account in EastWest and I am really very happy that they were my bank of choice."

For the past two years, Hong Ha Samsung has been my top bank account, savings account in EastWest Bank. One passionate Bank for its good accessibility and highly accessible services. By simply opening a time deposit account, she immediately got entitled to the Bank's Dream Big Win Big promo. Her deposit account grew further in the chance of possibly winning either a

Jerlee Oy

Sabrina Sy

Lucy Sing Yee

Lucina Ting

Lipper Manuela with EastWest Bank VP Alice M. Santiago

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Greco

FIFTEEN-year-old Sahar Gul is wheeled into hospital in Baghlan north of Kabul. Gul's in-laws kept her in a basement for six months, ripped her finger nails out, tortured her with hot irons and broke her fingers in an attempt to force her into prostitution. AP

Torture of teen bride renews Afghan rights worries

KABUL, Afghanistan—Just 15 years old, Sahar Gul has become the bruised and bloodied face of women's rights in Afghanistan. The teenage bride's eyes were swollen nearly shut as she was wheeled into the hospital seven months after her arranged marriage. Black scabs crusted her fingertips where her nails used to be.

According to officials in northeastern Baghlan province, Gul's in-laws kept her in a basement for six months, ripped her fingernails out, tortured her with hot irons and broke her fingers—all in an attempt to force her into prostitution. Police freed her after her uncle called authorities.

The horrific images, captured by television news cameras last week, humiliated Afghanistan and set off a storm of condemnation. President Hamid Karzai set up a commission to investigate, and his health minister resigned her bedside. Authorities arrested her in-laws, who deny abusing her, and issued a warrant for her husband, who serves in the Afghan army.

The case highlights both the problems and the progress of women 10 years after the Taliban's fall. Gul's egregious wounds and underage wedlock are a reminder that girls and women still suffer shocking abuse. But the public outrage and the government's response to it also show that the country is slowly changing.

"Let's break the dead silence on women's plight," read the title of an editorial Wednesday in the Afghanistan Times.

Despite guaranteed rights and progressive new laws, Afghanistan still ranks as the world's sixth-worst country for women's equality in the UN Development Program's annual Gender Inequality Index. Nevertheless, Afghan advocates say attitudes have subtly shifted over the years, in part thanks to the dozens of women's groups that have sprung up. AP

In boldest step, Europe nears imposing embargo on Iran oil

PARIS—European countries have taken their boldest step so far in the increasingly tense standoff with Iran over its nuclear program, agreeing in principle to impose an embargo on Iranian oil, French and European diplomats on Wednesday said.

A final decision by the European Union will not come before the end of January and would be viewed not as scope to avoid major disruptions in global oil supplies. But the move by some of Iran's most important oil customers appears to underscore the resolve of Western allies to impose on Iran the toughest round of sanctions to date, increasing pressure on Tehran to stop enriching uranium and negotiate an end to what Western leaders argue is an accelerating program to build a nuclear bomb.

Iran denies military intent and refuses to stop enrichment of uranium, saying what it describes as civilian purposes. But it has responded to the threat of new US and European sanctions with a series of military and diplomatic threats. It has notified new missiles, announced the production of its first nuclear fuel rod, warned a US aircraft carrier not to return to the Persian Gulf, and threatened to close the Strait of Hormuz to shipping, which analysts said could drive oil prices up by at least 30 percent.

Iran has also said that it wanted to reopen talks with the West on the nuclear issue, which was interpreted in Paris as an effort by Iran to buy time to continue its program.

The Islamic Iranian regime, aimed both at the West and at Israel, considered vitals a source assessment by the International Atomic Energy Agency that Iran's nuclear program has a military objective, are becoming an important issue in the US presidential campaign. Republican candidates are urging stronger measures against Iran, with some urging the use of military force, to stop the Islamic government from getting nuclear weapons and to better protect Israel.

Israel has warned that time is running out to stop Iran from developing a nuclear weapon, given that Tehran has been moving its enrichment facilities deep into mountains, making it much harder to attack them militarily. Israel has called on the United States and the West to make sanctions more punishing to persuade Iran to negotiate seriously and under the development of a nuclear weapon more costly for an economy already suffering from an array of financial and trade sanctions.

In Washington, the Obama administration described the reports that the European Union was moving toward an oil embargo as "very good news" and the result of lots of sustained, intense pressure, both from the US and EU countries," said State Department spokesperson Victoria Nuland. Such action "is consistent with tightening the screw on Iran economically," she said. "We think that the place to get Iran's attention is with regard to its oil sector."

Later yesterday, President Barack Obama signed legislation aimed at imposing sanctions on foreign companies that do business with Iran, which could reduce Iran's ability to sell its oil and other exports. Iran's first vice president, Mohammad-Reza Rahimi, then declared that if sanctions were imposed on Iranian oil exports, Iran would block shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. AFP/NYT

Oil price to soar if Iran closes strait

HOUSTON—If Iran were to follow through with its threat to blockade the Strait of Hormuz, a vital ocean route for almost one-fifth of the oil traded globally, the impact would be immediate: Energy analysts say the price of oil would start to soar and could rise 50 percent or more within days.

An Iranian blockade by means of mining, shelling or sabotage is logistically well within Tehran's military capabilities. But despite rising tensions with the West, including a sensitive ban on European imports of Iranian oil announced on Wednesday, Iran is unlikely to take such hostile action, according to most Middle East political experts.

US officials say the Navy's 5th Fleet, based in nearby Bahrain, stands ready to defend the shipping route and, if necessary, reinstate militarily against Iran.

Iran's own daily economy relies on exporting at least 2 million barrels of oil a day through the strait, which is the only sea route from the Persian Gulf and "the world's most important oil choke point," according to Energy Department analysts.

A blockade would also punish China, Iran's most important oil customer and a major recipient of Persian Gulf oil. China has invested heavily in Iranian oil fields and has opposed Western efforts to sanction Iran over its nuclear program.

Despite such deterrents to armed confrontation, oil and foreign policy analysts say a miscalculation is possible that could cause an overreaction from one side or the other.

"Iran not crazy but [blundering in war] a crisis nobody wants," said Helima Croft, senior geopolitical strategist at Barclays Capital. "There is a peril of engaging in brinkmanship from all sides."

New York Times News Service

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BUSINESS

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Dec. inflation hits 11-month low at 4.2%

Gov't may reduce policy rates given the slower rise in prices

By Riza T. Olchondra and Bernard W. Dominguez

THE COUNTRY'S annual inflation eased in December to its lowest level in 11 months, raising expectations that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas would cut policy rates early in the new year to support growth amid doubts over the pace of the global economic recovery.

That month, inflation settled at 4.2 percent year-on-year. As a result, inflation in 2011 averaged at 4.8 percent, according to preliminary data released yesterday.

The 2011 inflation figure is well within the government's target range of between 3 and 5 percent for the full year, said the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda).

The annual headline inflation in December was based on a new data series using 2006 prices. The index will switch to the 2006 data series this January. The government said it would soon announce its 2012 and 2013 inflation targets.

Now that inflation has become less of a worry, some analysts believe that the BSP will deliver a 25-basis point cut when members of its Monetary Board meet on Jan. 19.

Inflation is the rate of increase in the average prices of a standard "basket" of goods and services which households regularly purchase.

According to the National Statistics Office, all commodity groups except furnishing, household equipment, and routine house maintenance, recreation and culture, and education indexes posted either slower annual increases or negative annual rates during the month.

Month-on-month, consumer

DECEMBER B2-1

Year-on-Year Inflation Rates in the Philippines

(in basis points; 2006=100)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
January	3.6	4.6	1	3.3	4.1
February	3.2	4.1	2.3	3.6	4.1
March	3.6	4.8	0.8	4	4.8
April	3.6	5.5	0.6	4	4.7
May	3.6	8.3	0.4	3.7	5.1
June	3.1	8.4	0.1	3.7	5.2
July	2.9	10.2	0.1	3.7	5.1
August	2.7	10.4	1.2	4	4.7
September	2.6	10.1	2.2	3.6	4.8
October	2.6	8.7	2.8	3.3	4.3
November	3.1	7	3.6	3.7	4.8
December	2.8	7.7	4.2	3.9	4.2
Average	3.0	8.3	4.1	3.5	4.8

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

Jan 5, 2012

43.990

STOCK MARKET

Jan 5, 2012

31.14

Stocks close just a few points shy of record high

MOST stocks yesterday extended their winning streak for a fifth session, lifting the main stock barometer past the 4,000-level and closing just a few points shy of its record high.

The main share Philippine Stock Exchange gained another 31.14 points, or 0.69 percent, to finish at 4,518.81.

Local equities were said to benefit from the so-called "January effect," referring to the seasonally robust investor appetite seen at the start of every year.

STOCKS B2-3

PH raises $1.5B from 25-year global bond issue

THE PHILIPPINE government has raised $1.5 billion from the issuance of 25-year global bond registered with the US Securities and Exchange Commission, the Department of Finance said yesterday.

Marketing in January 2037, the bonds were priced at par with a yield of 5 percent.

Finance Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said in a statement that the yield was 1.962 percent higher than the benchmark US debt paper.

The latest global bond float carries "the lowest yield for a new 25-year benchmark dollar-denominated offering by the Philippines," Purisima said.

"We are very pleased to have once again been able to extend the [government's] maturity profile."

The Philippines' most recent foray into the global debt market involved the same amount but with a shorter tenor of 15 years.

Wednesday's offering is the fourth such issue of the Aquino administration, which raised P40.1 billion or $1 billion through its initial issue of 10-year global peso-denominated bonds in September 2010.

In January 2011, the Treasury also raised about P54.77 billion or $1.25 billion through the sale of 25-year global peso bonds.

Officials said bookbuilding for the offering took some 15 hours, with a quarter of allocations going to investors based in the Philippines, another quarter to those in parts of Asia, 35 percent from the United States, and 15 percent from Europe.

"Positive investor reception for this transaction allowed us to achieve our funding objectives in support of our fiscal program," National Treasurer

PH B2-1

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Meralco raises P3B via fixed rate notes issuance

Proceeds to be used to partly fund P10-B capex

By Amy R. Remo

MANILA Electric Co., the country's biggest power distributor, has raised P3 billion from the sale of long-term debt papers to selected institutional investors.

Proceeds from the fixed-rate note facility, which was arranged by First Metro Investment Corp., will be used to fund Meralco's capital expenditure program for this year.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Meralco announced strong market reception to its issuance of P3 billion worth of fixed rate seven-year notes, which were priced to yield 5.1250 percent a year, and P3 billion worth of fixed rate 10-year notes with a yield of 5.4167 percent a year.

Demand for the debt paper exceeded offering size as a mix of retail, savings, trust and investment banks, investment funds and insurance companies participated.

Meralco president and chief executive officer Manuel V. Pangilinan expressed his appreciation to the investors for their strong support and overwhelming response as reflected in the right pricing received by the company's latest fundraising activity.

The offering was launched on Dec. 16, 2011 and completed in less than three weeks, said PDEX president Roberto Amatorio T. Dapo.

"The Meralco notes were well received by the market with an oversubscription over the planned issue size of P3 billion," Dapo said.

For this year, Meralco targets to maintain about P20 billion for its capex program.

Oscar S. Reyes, senior executive vice president and chief operating officer of Meralco, earlier said the bulk of the amount would be used for electric capital projects such as substation facilities, transformers and distribution lines.

This move, according to Reyes, will ensure that Meralco will continue to have a strong distribution system despite the expected increase in the power load over the next few years.

Last year, Meralco had allocated P9 billion for its capex spending, which saw the construction of new distribution lines to address extremely loaded distribution circuits, conversion of sub-voltage systems to the standard 34.5 kilovolt distribution system, improvement of switching flexibility of distribution feeders and replacement of defective power transformers.

Takeover rumors

HEIGHTS before 2011 drew to a close, two mega deals in Philippine business were expected to be in the offing.

FEU was the possible acquisition by the Sacrilegio conglomerate of a controlling stake in debt-ridden Philippine Airlines.

According to reports, Fortune Tobacco Tan has expressed willingness to sell some of his PAL shares to EMC to enable Asia's first airline to meet the challenges of the highly competitive airline business.

Then GMA Network Inc., the operator of TV Channels 7 and 23, was reported to be in negotiations with a group of investors led by businessman Manuel Pangilinan, whose interests include the two-year TV Channel 43, in a possible buyout.

EMC admitted it was in talks with PAL to help the latter raise capital to purchase additional aircrafts. In spite of the admission, however, the share prices of the two companies hardly moved.

Their investors probably felt there was no reason to be worried or be optimistic about the transaction whatsoever were it good.

Just as the GMA-Kapuso's. There was heavy trading of its shares on the day the buyout rumor came out, with its share price rising by almost 5 percent.

The enthusiasm proved to be short-lived because GMA Network denied any plans or negotiations with the Pangilinan group for the sale of its favorite TV franchise.

Objectives

The role of the rumors in negotiations for mergers or acquisitions is secrecy or confidentiality. The premature disclosure of the discussions may create adverse reaction (and response) received from third parties who, for one reason or another, would not want the transaction to succeed.

What's more, if public or listed companies are involved, there are strict rules on insider trading (or taking advantage of information that is not available to the public) that have to be observed by the people involved in the negotiations.

More than fines and penalties, violation of insider trading rules could seriously impair the image or reputation of the professionals involved in the transaction.

Thus, investors, especially small stockholders, should be wary when they hear or read about reports of illegal insiders or advisers trading. Term "anonymous sources" or "persons who refused to be identified because they are not authorized to speak on the matter."

When a so-called inner source refuses to go on record or be identified, the statements should be taken with a grain of salt - a questionable objective is behind the unauthorized disclosure of such information.

The objective exists depending on the identity of the party who wants to benefit from the reaction of the investing public to the deliberate leak. For fund source, it is profit oriented.

Profit motive

The target company of a takeover move would want news of that action to discourage spread through the grapevine to attract the attention of other companies or investors that may also be interested in its business.

The more suitors participate in the wooing process, the stronger the bargaining leverage of the target company. It can play the prospective buyers against each other to squeeze as many concessions as possible.

Whenever silence during inner pieces the shares, including hidden actions of the directors and officers whose support would be critical to the transaction, raises the bidding stakes.

Planting well-placed rumors about an impending merger or acquisition also works to the advantage of the major stockholders in the target company who want to unload their stocks with agreement.

If the would-be buyer has a huge resource chest as compared to how the target is turning around distressed companies, chances are the demand for the stocks of the target company would rise the moment word gets around about the interest to acquire it.

With the rise in demand comes the increase in share price and the savvy stockholders would only be too happy to have their stocks included in the buying frenzy.

At this stage, they have to decide when to sell to get the maximum profit. If they sell too early, the price may later go up; but if they hold on to their shares in expectation that the price would still go higher, it's possible that the price may instead go down, to either scenario, they have to temper their greed.

Caution

The participation of unrecognized stockbrokers in takeover rumors can be discovered.

When trading in the stock market is sluggish or the prices are down, there is the temptation to artificially perk up the market through cleverly planned transactions or word of mouth tips.

The manipulative practice, whose variations are described as "hype and dump," "bashing the dove," or "painting the tape," is aimed at inducing the purchase or sale of stocks in the stock market.

Either way it goes, buying or selling stocks, the stockbroker earns by way of commission based on the value of the transaction.

The unwitting role when buyout or sellout talks are in the grapevine is for the parties concerned to immediately disclose a disclosure or statement about the truth or falsity of such talks.

But the problem is, when no statement is issued at all or, if there is, it is either late or couched in jargon that leave their readers more confused than enlightened.

So next time you read about the kind of rumors involving companies whose shares you own, hold on to your stocks, wait for further developments and consult a knowledgeable friend on the proper course of action to take.

(For feedback, please write to your advice@inquirer.com.ph.)

BDO, FINANCEASIA TAKE LEAD IN PPP FORUM BDO Unibank president Nestor Tan (3rd from left) explains a point as members of the panel listen at the recent PPP roundtable discussion hosted by the bank and moderated by Hong Kong-based financial publication FinanceAsia. Members of the panel include (from left) First Gen COO Richard Tantoco, BDO institutional banking group head Walter Wassmer, FinanceAsia senior editor Cherie Mercado (moderator), BDO Capital president Ed Francisco and BDO chair Teresita Sy-Coson. During the roundtable, representatives from both the government and private sector agreed that the implementation of various infrastructure projects would build a strong foundation for the economy.

Asian currencies seen undervalued vs US dollar

Appreciation not guaranteed, says BofA research

By Doris C. Dumlao

Asian currencies, especially the Philippine peso and Thai baht, are "undervalued" vis-à-vis the US dollar but are not expected to surge in the early part of 2012, according to a global research by investment bank BofA Merrill Lynch.

In a research dated Jan. 4 and titled "Fasten Your Dragons' Seats 2012 Kicks Off," BofA Merrill Lynch also eased off to a "cloudy but positive year" this year.

The subject focus in this report will be on China's macroeconomic policy and its implications for economies (EM) appreciation and wider asset prices, the research said.

"Unfortunately our forces to bullishness from 2011 is that renewed CNY appreciation, broader than FX (foreign exchange) appreciation is not necessarily guaranteed," the report said.

The research said there was indication that China can still accustomed to its choice of a "gradual" CNY appreciation as demonstrated by the Chinese currency's fixing close in 2011. The cause on the heels of the US Treasury report that absolved China of FX manipulation while recognizing that the currency is "persistently misaligned and remains substantially undervalued," the report said.

Citing its own "Compass model" - which looks at currencies based on the equilibrium exchange rate evaluation with a medium-term sustainable current account position - BofA Merrill Lynch suggested that the renminbi was 16.9 percent undervalued against the US dollar.

In the bigger picture, the research said the Compass model suggested that all Asian currencies remained undervalued with the Philippine peso and Thai baht were still undervalued, respectively by 24.6 percent and 29.2 percent.

BAML measures an individual country's currency value relative to the other major currencies with some adjustments for inflation.

Based on BEER, the research said Asian currencies were still broadly undervalued with the exception of India, Singapore, Taiwan and Indonesia, which it said "appear fairly valued."

But the research said Asian currencies were still a difficult short this year.

"The difficulty with the premise of an undervalued Asian currencies is that this currency block remains very pro-cyclical and reflects to support growth shocks from G10," the research said, referring to the positive impact of the world's economic recovery.

The research focused in a recession or concern case, heightened risk aversion surrounding another financial crisis and volatile capital flows that could weigh down on Asian currencies.

Power Situation Outlook
for Friday, 6 January 2012

	Luzon	Visayas	Mindanao
Available Capacity (MW)	7,801	1,167	1,106
System Peak Demand (MW)	6,597	1,302	1,238
Actual Reserve (MW)	1,314	-165	-11

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BCDA eyes John Hay development into both eco-tourism, techno hub

By Kitty B. Bonoa

STATE BUSINESS Corporation and Development Corp. and the new management of John Hay Management Corp. (JHMC) have vowed to implement reforms that will push Camp John Hay in becoming a premier eco-tourism and techno hub envisaged by the BCDA.

In a joint statement, BCDA president Arnel Paciano D. Casanova and newly appointed JHMC president Jaime Maximiano Aghayani said these reforms would improve the overall management of the complex and help realize the goals of transforming Camp John Hay into the country's "premier mountain tourism haven, promoting a business climate while preserving an ecologically-balanced environment and respecting diverse cultures."

According to the officials, BCDA and JHMC will implement the Tourism and Business Development Plan, which will develop Camp John Hay as an IT Service Export Processing Zone, an Educational Tourism Zone, a Sports and Recreation Center and an Eco-Cultural Tourism Zone.

The government will likewise push for the development of the untapped areas within Camp John Hay and implement enhanced environmental preservation programs.

Casanova and Aghayani vowed to pursue the collection of P2.6 billion worth of unpaid rentals by the Subic-based-Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevco).

Aghayani noted that with such reforms, the government intended to "bring back the glory of Camp John Hay."

In the meantime, Casanova disclosed that a multi-sectoral initiative was recently instituted.

Also, the "Camp John Hay Advisory Council" was formed. It is a consortium of "well-meaning leaders united by a common goal to address specific and general issues concerning the future of Baguio and adjacent localities such as La Trinidad, Sangnay, Itogon, Tublay, Tuba (BLIST) and Tublay," Casanova said.

Industry leaders who participated in a recent stakeholders meeting were of the consensus that Camp John Hay would play a "pivotal role" in the long term preservation of the Cordillera highlands for the Baguio area.

As such, Casanova said "John Hay would focus on sustainable development consistent with the culture, aspirations and visions of the people of Baguio and the Cordillera."

Camp John Hay Aghayani added, will serve as a "catalyst for development in the region, considering that its multi-faceted involvement impacts on the economic and social growth of the city, the province, and the entire region in general."

Officials further said the draft master plan for the development of Camp John Hay would be reconfigured in response to the collective sentiment of the residents of Baguio.

GOINGS-ON

Top gov't securities dealer

DEUTSCHE Bank has been named by the Bureau of the Treasury as the No. 1 dealer in the government market of local government securities 2011.

Moving from No. 3 in 2010 to the top spot last year, Deutsche Bank has been recognized for its excellent performance as auction of treasury bills and treasury bonds in the Philippines primary market.

Deutsche Bank has been a major debt consolidations to both the onshore and offshore debt markets of the Philippines. In October, it served as joint issue coordinator for the P15.6-billion Retail Treasury Bond (RTB) offering of the RTs in the offshore debt markets, the bank participated in multiple landmark transactions for the Republic of Philippines, including Asia's first ever offshore local currency bond issue in September 2010, which received a number of prestigious industry awards.

Discounted CEB fares

CEBU Pacific (CEB) offers P12 fares to 69 Philippine routes from Jan. 5 to 8, 2012 or until seats last, for travel from Feb. 1, 2012 until March 31, 2012.

The list is available for seats from Manila to Cagayan de Oro, Catarman, Caticlan, Cotabato, Laoag, Legaspi, Naga, Roxas, San Jose and Tuguegarao.

Travelers from Cebu can get P12 seats to Bacolod, Butuan, Cagayan de Oro, Davao, Dumaguete, Iloilo, Kalibo, Ormoc, Pagadian, Surigao, Tacloban and Zamboanga. Other routes included in this sale are: Cagayan de Oro to Iloilo and Zamboanga to Davao (one).

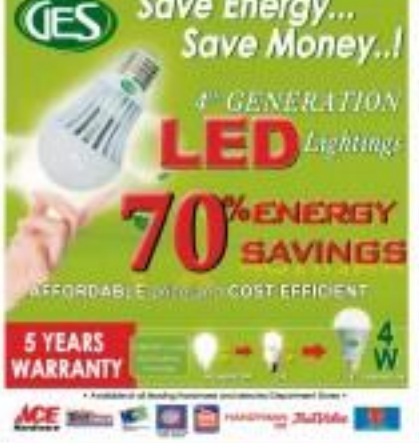
Also included routes are also covered in this sale are the same travel period: Travelers from Clark to Hong Kong or Macau can get seats for only P766. Flights from Clark to Singapore or Bangkok are at no available for P888. For those travelling from Cebu to Hong Kong or Singapore, seats are available for only P888.

CEB operates 33 Airbus A319, 19 Airbus A320 and eight ATR 72-500 aircraft.

New Intel® Atom™ processor

INTEL Corp. has announced the availability of the latest mobile Intel Atom processor-based platform, formerly called "Cedar Trail." Designed to provide small, compact, on-the-go computing with great battery life at an affordable price, the latest platform adds several new features to netbook computers. These devices are being designed with the thinness and lightness, including Acer, Asus, HP, Lenovo, Samsung and Toshiba.

The new designs dedicated media engine enables full 1080p high-definition playback of videos and Blu-Ray content and includes additional digital display and output options including HDMI and DisplayPort.



Next Mobile preparing to regain foothold in PH telecom sector

FILIPINO consumers may soon witness the revival of one of the country's pioneering mobile network brands following the signing of a deal between China's Huawei Technologies and a local firm for the supply of new equipment to Next Mobile Inc.

Listed firm Information Capital Technology Ventures Inc. (ICTV) is a disclosure said it was initially spending $12 million for the expansion of subsidiary Next Mobile, formerly Nextel Communications, with the goal of regaining its foothold in the country's telecom arena.

"Huawei will supply and deliver the necessary telecommunications infrastructure and system requested in the nationwide build-up plans of Next Mobile, with (ICTV) providing funding," the company told the Philippine Stock Exchange.

ICTV, which owns mainly in local technology startups, approved the deal on Dec. 29.

The supply deal is in line with the memorandum of understanding signed by ICTV and the Chinese telecom giant last September. The signing was done during the Philippine-Eastern China Business Forum held at Shangri-La Hotel in Shanghai, China's financial center.

Led by businessmen Mel Velarde, ICTV's deal with Huawei and local unit Huawei Technologies Phils. Inc. was one of several deals signed during President Aquino's state visit to China last week.

Under the deal, ICTV said it would explore with the Huawei group the possibility of entering into a business relationship that will allow each party to provide contributions "in order to attain the common purpose of implementing Next Mobile's nationwide build up plans."

The company aims to compete in the country's lucrative but maturing telecom sector, dominated by Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) and Globe Telecom Inc.

Paolo G. Montecillo

Time gets a facelift: Welder launches in the Philippines

Al Legaspi, Cito Beltran, Boy Mendiola, Joe De Leon, Ruby Ponzon, Bernadette Evasmoso, Dan Hernia, Randy Manalastas.

WELDER ambassador Anton del Rosario with Sara Ricciolo.

Leo Mendiola and Mia Fonacier

Noe Gonzalez-Manuel

Models show off the watch of the future.

Gilbert Bautista and Georgia Ramalla

PNOC-EC expects to net ₱3B

PNOC Exploration Corp., the upstream oil and coal arm of state-run Philippine National Oil Co., said it was expecting to post P3 billion in net income for 2011, which could be attributed to efforts to increase revenue and reduce operational expenses.

In a statement, outgoing PNOC EC chair and CEO Gerardino Lopez Jr. said the projected profit recorded the company's initial net income estimate of P2 billion and the P2.82 billion actual net income recorded in 2010.

The robust performance of PNOC EC—which can be traced to its gains from the Malampaya gas-to-power project, coal trading and integrated services and liquefied supply-base business—allowed the company to remit to the Treasury P5 billion in dividends, said to be the biggest profit contribution among government-owned and controlled corporations.

Its healthy balance sheet will allow PNOC EC to undertake new ventures for this year. One of the priority projects for 2012 is its plan to reenter the large-scale coal trading and marketing business.

PNOC EC will likewise pursue its plan to construct two 100-megawatt mine-mouth coal-fired power plants in Mindoro and Batangas Mirapay, estimated to be worth a total of $400 million or about P17.2 billion.

The power plants will be built near the coal mines operated by the company, which will eliminate some of the company's costs including freight or transport expenses. With the savings, the two PNOC EC facilities are expected to provide cheaper electricity rates to the local consumers due to the surrounding communities.

Another project which PNOC EC targets to start next year is the construction of an 918.32-million compressed natural gas (CNG) refilling station in Batangas City, which is targeted to jumpstart the CNG bus project of the Department of Energy under the Sustainable Energy for Transport Program. Through this program, the government is eyeing to have 1,000 CNG-fueled buses and nine refilling stations to support these vehicles by 2014.

PNOC EC is now preparing for the eventual power-operation takeover of the new mining mother and daughter refilling CNG stations, which are both owned by Shell Companies in the Philippines.

PNOC EC had said it already earmarked P600 million for the necessary facilities that would help boost government's programs to promote the use of natural gas, including the P18.32-million CNG refilling station in Batangas City.

Amy R. Remo

PIP review team members named

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy has drafted a list of members of the review panel that will be tasked to scrutinize the financial statements of six oil companies belonging to the Philippine Institute of Petroleum (PIP), which earlier sought to clear their names over allegations of overpricing and collusion.

Energy Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras said the panel members identified had yet to commit to the undertaking as they still needed to see the "terms of reference" of the review.

Members of the initial list included former Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno, Commissioner and Atty. Rene Hawkins and Bank Chairperson Amelita Ramos.

Diokno, however, declined to comment, but said the panel members identified had yet to commit to the undertaking as they still needed to see the "terms of reference" of the review.

Almendras earlier said the draft was compliant for the development of Camp John Hay would be reconfigured in response to the collective sentiment of the residents of Baguio.

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Almendras earlier said the draft was compliant

People, Events & Products

E-mail: supplements@inquirer.com.ph
Supplements Head Doreg Arcano

Serving street patrons to presidents, Kusina ni Kambal takes inspiration from Unilever Food Solutions

WHEN Jesus San Miguel established Kusina ni Kambal in 1980, she had no inkling that it would grow big, let alone boast into a food catering business crossing the country's prodigious eating destinations.

Named after San Miguel's twin daughters Marian and Mirabel, Kusina ni Kambal started as a humble stand in Marikina selling merienda items such as pansit (rice porridge), rodent's fishing, saging ice pops, pandesal and simple rice meals. Despite its down-to-earth menu, the eatery enjoyed a steady stream of clients, many of whom remain loyal patrons to this day.

After its first year in operation, the company's regular customers began requesting for dishes that were not on the menu. Encouraged by the good reviews and steady demand for their cooking, San Miguel decided to enter the food catering industry.

Here, more than two decades later, it has grown into one of the most trusted caterers for social events and corporate affairs. It has served past presidents, from Corazon Aquino to Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. "The family of former President Joseph Estrada loves our pansit de kapas," shared Ina Miguel. Likewise, former First Lady Imelda Marcos is a fan of the lumpia line which serves lumpia ingredients, fillings and condiments buffet-style.

Entering the food catering business was a huge step for Ina Miguel, but she was undaunted. She explained, "We were into very competitive industry with very demanding consumers. Still, we were confident in the taste and quality of our food. Plus, we had an industry expert to help us out."

Kusina ni Kambal established a partnership with Unilever Food Solutions (UFS), one of the world's leading foodservice brands. It offers globally known household products such as Knorr, Best Foods and Lady's Choice, Alsa, Cornetto and Lipton to professional partners like caterers, restaurants and major hotel and fast-food chains.

True to its "Inspiration Every Day" tagline, UFS collaborates with foodservice establishments to create food solutions that help grow their business. From menu planning and preparation, to business operations and marketing, it is committed to helping operators stay ahead of the competition.

The Culinary Academy for one helps train kitchen staff in cooking skills, menu development and costing, as well as safety and sanitation, among other things. The academy "curriculum" is made to fit the specific needs of the operation to make his kitchen more efficient and thriving, improving taste and profitability and inspiring more exciting menus, so that guests keep coming back.

Its popular advisory Sous Pleine on the other hand has been instrumental in helping increase Filipinos' appreciation for local dishes. By engaging both food businesses and diners, the movement enables people to learn more about Filipino cuisine and how it can evolve to a more contemporary one, rendering all the cuisine's identity. It also aims to inspire local restaurants to create unforgettable dishes that their customers will be proud to proclaim as truly Pinoy.

San Miguel affirmed, "They make life so much easier for caterers like us. They have a wide range of seasonings, condiments, dressings and spreads that improve the flavor of our dishes. What's more, the products come in bulk sizes, which affords us plenty of savings."

"Their chefs and culinary specialists help us keep our menus fresh and exciting, yet still profitable and help us promote our establishment. They also keep us well-informed of the latest industry trends through their programs," she added. "Best of all, we enjoy all these services for free."

While events catering will remain its main business, Kusina ni Kambal is considering putting up its own commissary early next year. "I think when we open our outlet, we would need more help from the chefs of Unilever Food Solutions," said Ina Miguel. "We want to continue learning. Good thing we can rely on Unilever."

For those who want to put up their own restaurant or catering business, San Miguel offered some words of advice: "You have to have the passion for good food. Come up with really good tasting dishes that can define you. Set high standards and foster a healthy relationship with your clients. Lastly, find a partner you can trust and who can help you accomplish all your goals."

RESIONA RUNNERS EMBARK ON LOCAL ADVENTURES

Lucky runners Jhyle Labrador, Rhonda Dee Dr. and Allison Palongpo enjoyed the thrill of local adventure when they visited on an exciting all-in-one patient until adventure package to Cagayan de Oro, Bukidnon and Iligan. Provisions responsible smartly at Resiona Manila Mansion. The adventure package consisted of trips to Mapawa Nature Park and Divine Mercy Shrine in Cagayan de Oro, Kamalig Caves and Dalan Adventure Park in Bukidnon and Mt. Piolog, Kumaguing Cave and Tamaraw Falls Ranch in Mt. Province. The runners enjoyed their adventures thanks to Resiona Mini Adventure with its new wheelchair-friendly that delivers 24-hour protection from sweat and odor. Photo shows Labrador (leftmost) and her friends enjoying a white water rafting adventure, one of the most-do activities in Cagayan de Oro.

MDH welcomes gold standard in CT scanning

MANILA Doctor Hospital, the first health facility in Asia to be accredited by Accreditation Canada International, is now offering the top of the line Siemens SOMATOM Computed Tomography for patients' medical and surgical diagnostic needs.

The new CT Scan is the latest innovative technology for delivering low dose CT examination for the safety of patients including pediatric who are more sensitive to radiation. For hospital and physician partners, delivering excellent image quality with significantly reduced radiation dose has always been a top priority.

The SOMATOM Definition Flash also provides fast scanning that minimizes the effects of patient movement, making it especially valuable across all areas whether in trauma, oncological, pediatric and cardiac cases among others. A full pediatric scan can be done in one second, independent of breathing movement making radiation and Contrast breathing absolute. The new CT Scan can meet the highest requirements of the medical community in everyday clinical challenges.

MDH's most recent acquisition is a testament to the hospital's commitment in continually improve our services and provide holistic quality and safe patient care.

RC COLA AND ROTARY CLUB OF PAGASA SPREAD YULETIDE CHEERS

Rotary Club of Pagasa CC scored another accomplishment in spreading the Christmas spirit to the indigenous community of Barangay Sto. Niño, Bataan. Aptly titled "Pasukan sa Kamanyan, Talaga Kalagayan," members of the club passed through the hanging bridge once more to reach the mountain where the IP community assembled for the delivery of the traditional toys and laughter, prizes and gifts, donated RC Cola, medicines and candy medical check-up to no less than the Rotary club president Jess Lim. Donations this year included eight made appropriately-sized bike in wonderful memory of Rotary Club PP Dedicated through SP Melicio and Rtn. Rio Salvador of RC Holy Spirit and other non-Rotarian friends. The Christmas party would not have been made possible without the support of RC Cola-Balanoto Refreshments Corp. (RCBC), Rotary Club of Pagasa, the distributor of RC Cola in the Philippines, headed by CVP-COO Gerry T. Ejercito. A valued partner of Rotary Club of Pagasa, RBC supports the goals of Rotary in support-

ing community initiatives such as feeding programs and medical missions. The first activities of the "Reach Within to Embrace Humanity" Rotary Year saw the consistent project implementation for the club's major beneficiaries, namely: indigenous schoolchildren and community in Mariveles; underprivileged elderly residents of Tabanan in Maria in Carmona, Cavite; and the orphans at the Holy Trinity for Children's Fairview, Quezon City.

MEDICARD, ROHM ELECTRONICS PHILIPPINES RENEW PARTNERSHIP

MEDICard, one of the country's leading health maintenance organizations, recently announced that it extended its partnership with ROHM Electronics Philippines, a developer of analog, digital and mixed-signal integrated circuits. Based on fourth year, the partnership gives ROHM employees access to MEDICard's wide network of close to 500 hospitals and clinics and over 12,000 doctors nationwide. ROHM is a subsidiary of ROHM Co. Ltd. of Japan, one of the world's leading producers of integrated circuits and discrete components. During the agreement are (seated from left) MEDICard VP for sales and marketing lawyer Joel Andrei Montoya, MEDICard president Dr. Ricky Montoya, ROHM president Haruhiko Inoue, ROHM director for HR and Global Ops Dr. Ramon Lorenzo, ROHM Integrated Systems (Philippines) consultant Bernadette Reboredo. MEDICard assistant manager for sales and development Joan Salvador, ROHM assistant manager for compensation and benefits Gerlyn Lopez and ROHM HR manager Josie Esquivia Jr.

Coach Rio Dela Cruz: success at fast speed

FOCUS, determination and a lot of hard work. These are what made Rio Dela Cruz, aka Coach Rio, the marathon trainer in the local scene today started off as a kid who didn't have enough money to get himself a decent pair of running shoes! Indeed, it was a tough start for Coach Rio who came from a not so well off family.

The saved on walk around 3 km daily just to get to school with only P1 allowance per day—spent on pencils and notebooks. He has had his share of life at such an early age. Coach Rio only had his big dreams and his passion for running to hold on.

Not letting his financial status get in the way, he started competing in local school meets while running barefoot. Soon enough, with the help of kind souls, he was able to get a decent pair of running shoes. First, a pair of Mighty Kid shoes, and next, a pair of Chuck Taylors, believing that its finish rather ones prove beneficial to running.

On the side, coach Rio also honed his entrepreneurial and academic skills. While selling slinging subs, kakanin and ice water to classmates and colleagues, he continued to excel on doing well in his classes, which eventually helped him earn a Physical Education degree from the University of the Philippines Diliman while being the star athlete of the said university's track and field team. All these experiences helped Coach Rio become even more determined in making it big someday.

By 27, his name awakened more finally came. Armed with multiple recognitions in the running industry, he started to make a name for himself this time, not as a mere athlete but rather as a race organizer and promoter. Establishing Bandila, his own race organization as a venue to market his services, Bandila has introduced various innovations to the running industry like the use of Championchips, LED race finish arch, 30 race maps and live video coverages to ensure that each and every runners gets a hassle-free experience. His flagship event, the Bandila Takbo has become one of the most awaited events in the running industry.

Today, living up to his vision of creating a pleasant haven for all runners and running enthusiasts alike, he came up with Rioneta, a quality runner's hub. Given Coach Rio's name and alphabet which means a state of runnerdemhood. Its two doors (one in Bonifacio Global City and the other one in Kamputhaa) is a testament of Coach Rio's commitment in providing nothing short of the best experience to his target market.

Apart from selling the top brands when it comes to running apparel, gears, accessories and shoes, Rioneta also has locker rooms, showers and lounge facilities to ensure a most comfortable experience before, during and after every run. Runners also affect free GAIT Analysis which help determine the right shoe to wear for each runner together with running tips for an enlightening experience. Post running sports therapy and massage services are also available and the like can also be availed on site.

Indeed, Rioneta allows one to experience a different high when it comes in running. Thanks to the one person who made it all possible: Coach Rio.

Visit Rioneta at the following addresses: Ground Floor Active Pro Building 9th Avenue Corner 30th Street, Bonifacio Global City near Manila BGC and at the 3rd Floor of the Regis Center Building, Loyola Heights Quezon City in front of Ateneo de Manila University. For more information, please visit Rioneta's website at www.rioneta.com. Check out Rioneta's fan page: facebook.com/RioneteaPhilippines.

AMAIA SKIES RISES IN CUBAO

Amaia Land Corp. recently launched Amaia Skies Cubao. The property is ideally located at the commercial district of Cubao, on EdSa corner P Tuazon. Its central location and high accessibility mean residents will have time to spend on what matters most rather than spending hours in traveling. Skies is Amaia's highest condominium brand located within EdSa. It is meant for upwardly mobile individuals who want to be efficient and who long for privacy and independence of owning a city home in their location of choice at easily affordable prices. Amid concerns it is by afar, and its vicinity to the affordable market segment, quality, efficiency and cost effectiveness are ensured. Leading the launch were, (from left) Ayala Land's Head Commercial Business Group Jaime Ongpin, Design Group Jose Luna, Amaia's Portfolio Projects Development head Nina Lingad, land partner Stephanie Ferrer, Amaia Land president Ricky Tan Cotia, and Ayala Land's EVP and head of Residential and Commercial Business Groups Bobby D. Ilp.

ICT INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

Undersecretary Alexander Ok Jaramillo of the Department of Science and Technology's Information and Communications Technology Office (DOST-ICTO) meets with the officials of Computer Manufacturers, Distributors and Dealers Association of the Philippines (CMADAP) at the CMADAP EXPO Manila 2013, the country's biggest technology exhibition and sale held recently at SMX Convention Center in Pasay City, Metro Manila, who oversees the development of the ICT industry as part of the transition of the country to "next-G" IT, shown talking here with (from left) CMADAP director Wesley C. Ilgo, president Juan S. Chua and directors Jeffrey O. Chua and Jefferson T. Pisco.

Property Watch 2012

Auspicious investment in the year of the dragon

The year of the water dragon augurs good fortune to those who choose to live well and right. Luck, prosperity, and good health come when one chooses to live in harmony with the energies of nature and, not against it. This is why Arya Residences, a top-end residential development at The Fort, is designed to invite positive energy and favorable returns on investment.

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ARYA RESIDENCES

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At Arya Residences, smart architecture beats conventional wisdom. For instance, we've oriented our buildings away from direct sunlight so that does not heat up the units unnecessarily. The heat and noise resistant Low-E panoramic windows used in the entire building bathe rooms in natural light. The spacious balconies in each unit are also there for more than aesthetic purposes.

They block the harshest heat of the sun. All these add up to considerable energy savings. Owe that to design, not luck.

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BUSINESS

PH faces economic 'headwinds' in '12, BSP warns

By Dinand L. Lucas

Gov't, private sector cooperation key to boosting GDP growth

THE GLOBAL outlook for 2012 is worth...

That said the head of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas who resigned yesterday from the Philippine economy faces a "triple whammy" threat this year, from the continuance of unfolding and potential crisis in the United States, Europe and China that may influence local business and consumer confidence.

At the same time, however, BSP Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr. said that the combined effects of the troubles in the world's largest economic blocs can be deflected if the government and the private sector ramp up spending and investment.

"We are cognizant of the risks our economy faces from the external [developments], the possible prolonged resolution of the European debt crisis and the slowdown in China," he said in his annual economic outlook speech yesterday before the Rotary Club of Manila.

"But unlike in the advanced economies, which need drastic breakers to stop the negative spiral, the Philippines appears to have a greater need for 'active cylinders' to jump start the economy long it moving. Here allow for the growth rate to shift to a higher gear and sustain the speed in a coming cycle," Tetangco added.

While the Philippines is better positioned to withstand the effects of the global turmoil, the central bank chief said more can be achieved in terms of obtaining quality economic growth.

"Income poverty is an economic history, we, as a people, should desire not simply to stay above the line," he said. "We should be pursuing for quality improvement in our individual lives. We should be aspiring for higher ground for all."

Last year, the bulk of the growth stimulus for the economy was provided by the monetary sector with regulators keeping borrowing rates at low levels, aided by stable prices of goods and services.

However, the benefits of the low interest rate regime were capped by the anemic spending policy of the Aquino administration, as it sought to enforce contraction in government infrastructure contracts.

The private sector, meanwhile, was largely unable to help push growth higher amid prolonged delays in the infrastructure-flagging economic stimulus, the Public Private Partnership (PPP) program.

For 2012, Tetangco pointed out that inflation rate will likely remain manageable and was within the government's forecast range, raising the likelihood of another round of monetary policy easing to help boost economic growth.

GMA, ABS-CBN claim top spot

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE QUESTION of which local television network attracts the most viewers is still anybody's guess, with two separate research firms proclaiming two different leaders in nationwide and Metro Manila ratings.

GMA Network Inc. on Thursday said it dominated 2011 with more households tuned in to "Kapuso" programs for the entire year, beating its rival ABS-CBN Corp. in the race.

But this comes a day after ABS-CBN Corp. made the same claim, using data from a different research firm.

Based on full 2011 nationwide data from AGB Nielsen Media Research, GMA posted an average 34.2 percent total day audience share for the 12 months of 2011. This was higher than ABS-CBN's 31.1 percent and TV5's 10.6 percent.

"[With noticeably increased its total day household audience share overall in 2011, versus 2010 by 3.2 points. In contrast, ABS-CBN's record suffered a significant drop of 0.6 points during the same period," GMA said in a statement.

The company said in effect, it gained nearly 1.2 million new viewers, while it erased 500,000 of its own.

Due to its improved ratings, GMA reported that ad placements from the country's top 50 advertisers grew by 30 percent from January to September. Fourth quarter figures are still being finalized.

On Wednesday, ABS-CBN citing data from Kantar Media said it enjoyed an audience share of 36 percent in 2011, versus GMA's 35 percent and TV5's 13 percent.

GMA insists that its figures were more credible, pointing out that all major TV networks in the country also subscribe to AGB Nielsen. The research firm's survey also covers a bigger sample size than Kantar's.

Ford launches EcoSport SUV

By Jong Arcaba
Motoring Editor

NEW DELHI, India—Stepping up the pace of its an aggressive new vision most of its brand-n south Asia's supposed sales engine, Ford yesterday introduced the All-New Ford EcoSport to global crowd at the Auto Expo 2012 here.

Considered the world's first B Segment SUV, the all-new EcoSport is one of several all-new global Ford vehicles that the company is launching this year.

The new Focus, for example, is tipped to be released in the last quarter of the year.

The EcoSport is the big version of the best-selling Fiesta, which contributed largely to Ford's strong performance in the Philippines in 2011.

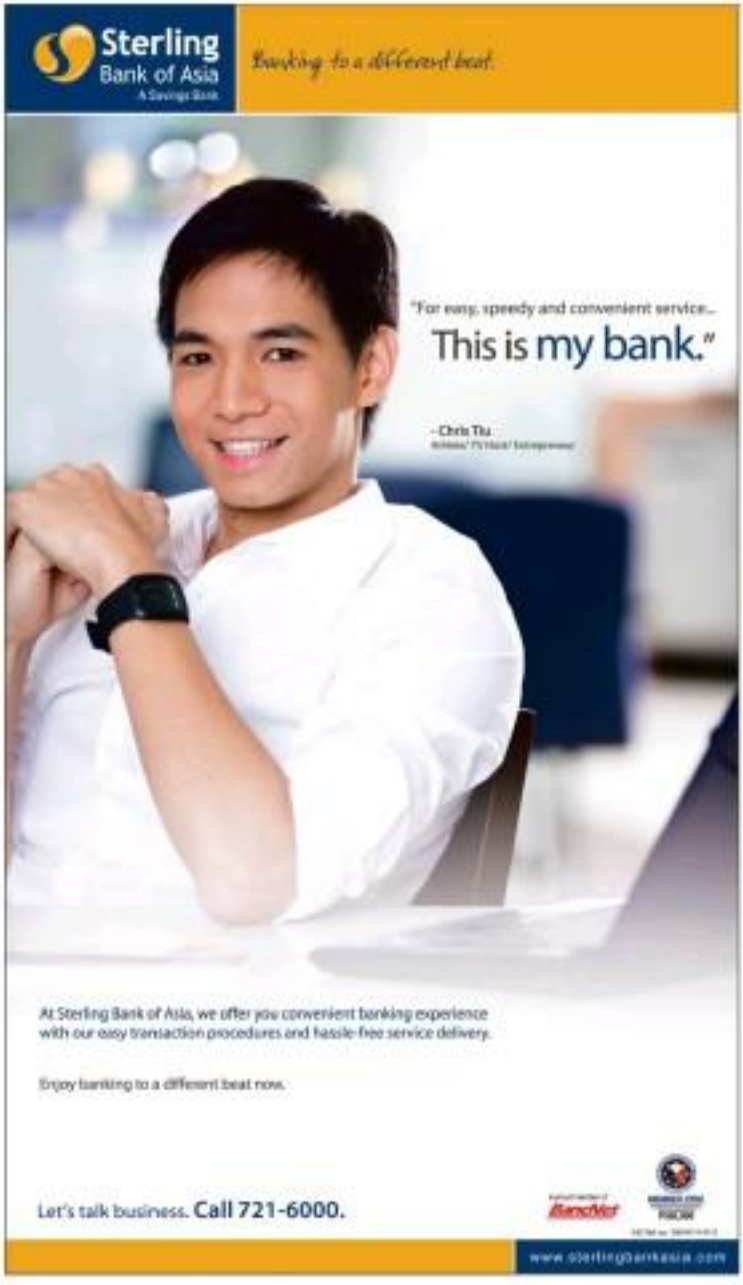
The modern and innovative design of the all-new Ford EcoSport, say officials of Ford only, was aimed at attracting a new generation of consumers in different global markets.

Key attributes of the model are a robust body, good fuel efficiency and safety features. The high ground clearance should also add to its maneuverability.

Marty Pietersma, the new VP for marketing and sales of Ford Group Philippines, said that the arrival and entry of the Ford EcoSport for Philippine consumers are still in the planning stages. The only thought, the 1.0 liter version with an Eco-boost engine that will be released in Indian markets only.

"The all-new Ford EcoSport reflects our commitment to evolve our customers with the cars and trucks they truly want and need," said Alan Mulally, president and CEO, Ford Motor Company.

Mulally led a team of Ford executives at the EcoSport launch late as it to reaffirm the Blue Oval brand's upward affection to...mall the Asian market, where much of its sales growth in the next few years is expected to come from.



BUSINESS Friday

E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/business
Business Features Editor Margie Quiroga-Espino

Importance of learning about Asia

AS WE welcome the year 2012, one of the things we all look for are opportunities for growth, and given the rise of Asian economies as treasured and global superpowers, we should all prepare ourselves and our companies/organizations for the Asian "invasion".

To do that, Asia Society Philippine Foundation, Inc. in cooperation with participating businesses and foundations, has created a 6-session series on how to do business and interact with people in China, Korea, Japan, India, Malaysia, Japan and India.

Everyone is invited to register for the 2nd Cycle of the Asia In My Pocket training program which aims to equip its participants with the useful cultural knowledge needed to develop global leaders and cross-national partnerships. Each session will cover a brief history, culture, business opportunities and environment of the featured country. Speakers will be coming from the various embassies and each session is already inclusive of lunch and drinks.

For more information, please e-mail: info@asiasociety.org.ph.

Flower arrangement and balloon decor in one

THE FLORAL business can be very profitable simply because you have holidays and events all year long that create demand.

Not if you can't afford to open a flower shop but still like entering floral arrangements, you can still run a profitable business from home.

Learn the techniques of arranging flowers and entrance into flower businesses. The Golden Investors Skills and Development Program will introduce some key seminars on fresh flower arrangement and balloon decoration on Jan. 8, Sunday, from 10:00 to 6 pm, to be held at the SMX Convention Center, Mall of Asia Complex Pasay City.

The day long workshop seminar covers the basic principles of floral design with hands-on experience for the making of long and low arrangements that will specifically cover triangle flower arrangement, wrist corsages, bouquet for bridesmaid, flowers in a box and many more.

Also balloon decoration techniques covers topic for the making of a three balloon in a ring, tassel flower arrangement with a balloon, balloon topiary, arch balloon, balloon inside the ball and so and many more.

Sourcing of materials, costing and step by step guidelines on how to start and maintain a flower and balloon business will also be discussed.

All the materials, handouts for fresh flowers and balloons to be used for hands-on will be provided including lunch and snacks and the certificate of training will be given to the participants.

For questions call 813-83-31, 426-79-26, 422-15-79 or log on to www.GoldenTeza.com/skills.com.

DDB group leads PH new ad biz acquisitions

By Regge Pe
Contributor

WHICH ad agency leads in new business acquisitions and revenues towards the end of 2011?

ICS, a global consultancy firm on marketing efficiency and effectiveness, released its 11th month report for year 2011 and showed DDB on top of the list with a $2.39 million gain, roughly P114 million pesos for November alone.

ICS does independent research on media spending and marketing impact focusing on insights and analysis.

It is Asia's largest marketing consultancy firm, which merged with Grupo Consultores, Europe's biggest, in 2004.

ICS's CBI (Creative New Business League) for the Philippines also showed DDB making number 1 last October in terms of new business, reporting it acquired Barrio Fiesta, Hanson

The famous three of the DDB triumvirate: Franciski Bill Bernbach, Ned Doyle and Maxwell

Technologies and Amexic.

The group which tallies a monthly report on Philippine ad agencies' new biz wins, as well as other countries in Asia (Wville, Inc. blue chip acquisitions worldwide as among its clients: Johnson & Johnson, Samsung, Singapore Airlines, Microsoft, SingTel, Visa, Coca Cola among others.

"We expect to remain on top even when the full 12-month tally for 2011 is completed", says Ms. Teresa Kimmerer, agency's Corporate Communications Officer. "The volume would come from other surprise packages that greeted us towards the end of the year," she says.

Over the last 15 years, the agency has handled leisure like resorts and PepsiCo, counting Pepsi, Unilab, East-West Bank and Metrobank as one of its more recent business acquisitions.

The agency's media arm OMD Philippines Media also topped the list in Media Time Buyment League for November, being $1.51 million for the same period.

OMD has over 8,000 employees in more than 100 markets across every region in the world, uniquely positioned to provide media leadership across its clients locally, regionally and globally.

ICS's methodology for MAL (How Business League) is a compilation of the most recent data supplied by 26 multinational ad agencies on a monthly basis. The report is balanced against client estimates, Nielsen AGB's (Advertising Expenditures), discounted to appropriate levels and then converted to current estimates.

DDB Philippines is part of the DDB Worldwide Group, one of the world's most creative and effective ad agency networks under Omnicom, which also groups two other iconic agencies: BBDO and TBWA.

OMD has over 8,000 employees in more than 100 markets across every region in the world.

Cola firm pours investment on the environment

By Cristel Ypsaguirre
Contributor

ENVIRONMENTAL sustainability is ingrained in Antonio Industrial Corporation's (ARC) heritage. ARC is the licensed manufacturer and distributor of RC Cola in the Philippines.

The production of soft drink, after all, impacts the environment, affecting water, carbon emission and energy consumption. As such, ARC takes its role as a steward of the environment seriously and prides itself on its company-wide green initiatives, woven into the fabric of its business roadmap since it started. Eight years later, the cola firm's proactive thrust has made them one of the most lauded in green living.

For the fourth time, it has never hurdle. ARC has been a three-time recipient of the Hiyas award from LLDA, a quasi-government agency that initiated an environmental swing system in industries and commercial establishments around the Laguna de Bay region. Careful measures and benchmarking initiatives, the cola firm has

Careful measures benchmarking initiatives, the cola firm has raised the bar each year

raised the bar each year. For this, LLDA has elevated ARC's Blue Award—which affirms that the company's effluents are consistently within standards—to the Green Award. The company has since won two consecutive Green Awards.

"We cannot deliver quality without being compliant," Butch Arro, Vice President for Manufacturing and Technical Services for ARC, says. "It is essential to achieve that. One of the first considerations when we were building the plant [in Antipolo] was for it to comply with environmental standards."

For Arro, who personally took charge of building the bottling plant, becoming accustomed to the Taguig plant would not only minimize the environment impact with respect to water management and energy awareness but also help engrain a health and safety culture among its employees.

"It is easier for us to work on environmental sustainability because it has been entrenched since our inception. We designed it that way. So from the very start, our employees were equipped with the essentials. They know that helping the environment will not only help them but their children's future. In a way, it has become organic," he adds. The concept works well because every ARC employee has been informed about it as soon as they step into the company. Compliance with environmental standards, Arro says, is not limited to LLDA alone. The company also has to meet the environmental norms of the local government unit (LGU), among others.

Arro takes pride in ARC's waste water treatment facility, whose waste water is so clean that the carnivalous have taken to creating a fish pond beside it. With a stringent effluent discharge limits, Taguig has been taken shorter as it, practically, its waste water quality could not only be improved but be part of enhancing superior conditions along tributaries within the Laguna de Bay area.

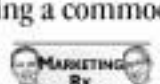
For Arro, the solution includes creating a well-oiled, well-efficient plan that complies with government environmental standards.

Its production facility is currently in a very high tech, helps increase the efficiency and of all resources, including waste reduction, energy consumption and air emission.

Lowering carbon emission is also part of ARC's concept of sustainability which is why the company has ensured that its air standard is as par or even beyond the benchmark.

The company is continuously in search of green initiatives that will help reduce its carbon footprint and minimize the impact on the environment. "We will continue to work efficiently and influence green building practices. The recognition that we receive for our efforts have inspired all of us at ARC to see the difference we bear sustainability can help make a big difference to our environment for our future generation," Arro says.

'In marketing a commodity, can we just brand and succeed?'



Dr. Neil Roberto
@Ateneo Roberto

Q: MR. WEBB: happy to read in last week's column that you welcome questions from students. We're graduating students of agribusiness but we're only in a "subsistence" (agriculture) school in the economy.

There are four of us in our group who want to innovate in staple crops as basic action. Our professors have not discouraged us but neither have they "encouraging". In fact, we'd like to do something that St. Agritech Corp. has been able to do with their "Doña Maria Japonica" brand of top quality rice.

In our basic reserving, we often ask but get no answer: "Is marketing a commodity like rice, can we just brand and succeed?"

No answer heard

We've searched online and in libraries to learn how St. Agritech did it. We even tried studying the company buying we can interview its product development team to find out their product innovation model. We were ready to give up when one of our group mates suggested our writing to your column. If you know the story of St. Agritech, please share via your column so we can learn and then copy and who knows, a few years from now we may succeed in be another St. Agritech and come out with our own superior brand of rice.

A: We want to be honest with you. We don't know the success story of St. Agritech. We know even much because their product innovation system. So why are we devoting a column on your question?

It's because we know of a technique that can come close, and sometimes come amazing by every observer that sees it.

We'll show first the results of applying this technique to the Doña Maria case and then explain what the technique is all about and how to correctly apply it. We teach this technique in one of the sessions of our "Continuous Product Innovation" seminar. Participants have given us highly satisfied praise over feedback about its application.

According to this technique, here's how St. Agritech "discovered" its true and unique value developed and successfully marketed Doña Maria Japonica.

To start with, St. product developers must have some reason to allege that the rice market segment where consumers will welcome a new but high value rice brand is with the upper class consumers.

Fine senses

Having probably talked to some of these consumers about their rice eating experience, the St. Product developers must found how discriminating in taste these consumers were. They narrowed their five senses based expertise to eating good rice brands or what one or two or more brands built in one or two of the five senses.

It was these raising as well as mixing sensory qualities in the consumers' rice eating experience that the St. Product developers utilized as sensitive materials for completing the product concept in Doña Maria Japonica.

That product concept consisted of five "sensory signatures" embedded in the brand. These were rare "Turmeric" signatures, namely, "taste" and "smell," and three "S-sense" signatures which are "smell," "sight," and "sound." Thus, Doña Maria Japonica is positioned this way:

"In taste impression as "delicious ... goodness enveloped in each bite," and less tasting rice in the Philippines ... probably the whole world."

In touch or feel impression as having "soft texture."

In smell or aroma as "naturally fragrant," and having the "wonderful aroma of Japanese rice."

In sight or look impression as having the "Japanese rice quality."

And in sound impression as something you can "listen to the goodness of its taste with your every bite."

Because these sensory values came from what consumers have been saying and found meaning in the available top quality rice brands, delivering them all and well in Doña Maria fascinated with the target consumer segment. So how did we learn that these sensory values that appealed to the target consumers?

It's obvious that we did not interview the consumer and Profanillo people of St. Agritech to find out. That's easy to be requested.

No interesting interviewees in his or her right mind will tell you his or her trade secret. But nevertheless we found out. How?

We resorted to what archaeologists called the method of "deconstruction." From as few "artifacts" as a tooth and a fragment of a bone, in deconstruction the archaeologists can figure out the mouth, the face, the neck and the entire body of the dinosaur that owned those two tiny artifacts.

It's a technique of re-analyzing the past to see what it could, or more what it should have been. That's essentially what we did to approximate Doña Maria Japonica's innovative product concept.

What "artifacts" proved useful to our deconstruction? They're all the materials about the Doña Maria rice from its surface, its package's product description, its advertising and marketing terms, its product literature, and similar other "artifacts."

But how did we make sense out of those scattered "evidence" and fragments of "tools" and "bones"? We resorted to a model, a theory of consumer product value building.

Specifically we invoke Martin Lindstrom's Brand Sense model to give some internally consistent and meaningful shape to the "artifacts" that will deconstruction method and grounded. It is the combination of these two, deconstruction and consumer model selection, that constitutes the wholeness of this continuous product innovating exchanges. Try it now. It's easy, inexpensive and it works!

Keep your questions coming. Send them to us at Marketing@philDSL.net or drroberto@gmail.com. Feel free!

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Court blocks open pit ban in Zambo del Norte

TVIRD would lose $448M if mine were to close down

By Rue T. Dalondas

TVI RESOURCE Development (Phils.) Inc. scored an initial victory when it issued a court granted its request for a preliminary injunction against a provincial ordinance banning open pit mining in Zamboanga del Norte.

"This will allow the company to continue operating the Canatuan mine in the province while it challenges the legality of the ordinance in court.

Branch 6 of the Regional Trial Court of Dipolog granted the injunction on Jan. 6.

"TVI is entitled to an injunction because it would suffer grave and irreparable damage and injury if the ordinance would be implemented," a copy of the resolution stated.

The provincial ordinance supposedly took effect on Nov. 6 after it was given its three local papers. As a result, TVIRD now only has one year to wrap up its Canatuan project.

The mine in Zamboanga del Norte still has enough mineral resources to enable TVIRD to operate it for four more years.

The company is now preparing for a legal battle to prove that the ordinance is "unlawful and unconstitutional," TVIRD president Eugene T. Rhodes said in a statement.

Many and more members of the business community in Zamboanga del Norte have come out in the open to oppose the provincial ordinance. About 45,000 Subanons, apart from members of the Mindanao Chapter of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, have signed a petition against the ordinance.

Also, some local officials are now calling for a repeal of the open pit mining ban and have thrown their support behind the copper miner, the company said.

TVIRD, the Philippine affiliate of TVI Pacific Inc. of Canada, stands to lose $448 million in gross revenues if the Canatuan copper-gold mine closes prematurely due to the open pit ban in Zamboanga del Norte.

The yearly gross revenue of the mine, which is located in Siocon Canatuan, Barangay Tabayo, Bocasi, Zamboanga del Norte, is about $112 million, company data showed.

TVIRD also said that a "great part" of its revenue would have been spent on operating cost, royalty to IPs or Indigenous People, and community development.

"We strongly believe the process to be assessed by the province under the ordinance, and by the provincial government of Zamboanga del Norte, are unconstitutional. While the court order also allows TVIRD to continue its operations in Canatuan unimpeded, we will continue to relentlessly pursue ultimate relief from what we view as an unconstitutional local legislation," TVI Pacific president and CEO Cliff James said in a separate statement.

Government figures for the first half of 2011 showed that the Canatuan mine accounted for 13.54 percent of the Philippines' copper metal production and 11.35 percent of copper concentrate.

Canatuan also pitched in 0.35 percent of the country's gold output and 27.53 percent of silver production.

December inflation

From page B1

prices dropped by 0.2 percent in December due to lower prices of heavily weighted food items such as rice, cooking oil, vegetables, and sugar in many regions including the National Capital Region (NCR).

It entails the numbers are a relief as the BSP set food price pressures that appear to have materialized despite the crop damage," said Eugene Leow, an economist at SOR in Singapore, referring to damage caused by a typhoon that hit southern Philippines last month.

"Another 50 basis points worth of rate cuts are pencilled in for the first half of the year. The first 25 basis points cut could certainly come as soon as the upcoming meeting in January," Leow added.

The SOD said that the general downward inflationary trend in prices of gasoline and diesel, especially, along with lower electricity charges in the NCR, contributed to the decline in month-on-month inflation.

"The slowing inflation is good news, it is consistent with the view that growth, rather than inflation, should be the focus of policymakers," Benjamin E. Diokno of the UP School of Economics said in a text message.

Ibokno added that the lower inflation figure supported "the need for reducing policy interest rates to spur growth."

On Wednesday, BSP Deputy Governor Nestor Espenilla said that the stable inflation environment in 2011 was a cause for optimism.

In the purchasing power of the average Filipino appears to be generally unaffected by problems abroad, consumers will be encouraged to continue buying goods which, in turn, will support businesses and keep workers employed.

Also, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco said the December inflation data reinforced the central bank's view that inflation would remain manageable over the policy horizon, giving policymakers room to adjust interest rates if needed.

But authorities remain watchful of developments abroad, including geopolitical risks in the Middle East, because of their impact on inflation, he said. The Philippines imports most of its crude oil requirements from the Middle East.

"BSP will make adjustments as necessary to ensure that set monetary settings remain appropriate," Tetangco said in a mobile text message to reporters.

At the year ahead, monetary authorities will continue to shepherd inflation to within 3 and 5 percent.

According to financial services firm ING Group, Philippine inflation has already started to trend lower after peaking at 5.2 percent year-on-year in October, based on 2006 prices.

"Price pressures in the coming months should remain benign amid a slowing global economy," the Singapore-based group said.

Despite higher food prices due to crop damage from recent bad weather, ING expects Philippine inflation to trend toward 4 percent by March, and average at the same level throughout 2012. Which a report from Reuters

Liberal Party stalwart appointed head of TRB

By Paolo G. Montecillo

A MEMBER of the ruling Liberal Party has been appointed to a key post in government, the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) yesterday announced.

DOTC Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said former Marinduque Rep. Edmund Reyno Jr., who failed in his reelection bid during the 2011 poll exercise, was recently named executive director of the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB).

The TRB is the agency responsible in managing and regulating fees imposed on motorists using the major superhighways in the country.

Reyno replaced Manuel Ingcoral. His appointment took effect on Jan. 5.

During his time at the house, Reyno was a member of key committees such as the public works and highways, transportation and communications and ways and means.

He is the latest of a string of officials appointed to different posts at agencies attached with the DOTC.

Before, who also lost his vice governorship bid during the elections in May 2010, took over as head of the DOTC in last July.

Reyno is the current head of the Liberal Party President Benigno Aquino III is the party's titular head and chairs.

On Wednesday, the government also announced the appointments of Pablo Rosca Nava III as board member of the TRB, and Apolito Enriquez, who was named board member of the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA).

Before his appointment, Nava was a private lawyer specializing in corporate cases. He also used to be a member of Belle's Sangguniang Bayan.

Enriquez, meanwhile, took the seat recently vacated by Nestor Sabado, whose fixed term expired this month.

Enriquez holds a master's degree in Geotechnical Engineering from the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok. He used to work for the International structural design firm Ove Arup & Partners in Hong Kong.

His local experience includes a term as chair of the Professional Regulation Commission's Civil Engineering Board.

Earlier this week, Roxas announced the appointments of Al Villarroel III as president of the Metro Rail Transit Corp., which operates the MRT Line 3 line. Villarroel played a crucial role in the administration's infrastructure program as head of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Center.

PH raises $1.5B from 25-year global bond issue

From page B1

Tedoreo B. Tan said.

Deutsche Bank and Standard Chartered Bank were appointed joint global coordinators.

They were also named joint bookrunners along with Citi, Credit Suisse, Goldman Sachs, HSBC, JP Morgan, and UBS.

The amounts raised was the upper limit that the government was authorized to raise from the bond float.

With plans to borrow a total of $1.25 billion from commercial lenders, this means that the government has $750 million more to borrow.

The government plans to borrow a total of $1 billion from foreign lenders in 2012, of which $175 billion will be sourced from the issuance of sovereign bonds and the remainder from foreign governments and multilateral institutions.

Reported By Bernardo

Stocks close

From page B1

The local index closed at its best level at around 4,558 in Aug. 1 last year.

All counters closed up, but the day's upswing boosted the property and services sub-indices the most, surging by 1.8 percent and 1.77 percent, respectively.

Mikul Tan-Antonio and Stephen at PSi 22 billion compared with the previous day's P5.83 billion.

The run-up in the last five days also sent some blue chips to "overbought" levels, making them ripe for profit-taking.

Manny Gan of Asiasec Equities said the upswing was supported by improved foreign investor appetite as well as anticipation of better corporate earnings this 2012 and of a potential upgrade in the Philippine's sovereign credit rating.

The warm market reception to the government's fresh global bond offering, Gan said, also affected investor sentiment.

But Gan said that, in the near term, investors would likely try to lock in gains as the 4,558 to 4,580 index range.

"We're at overbought levels, so we're expecting a retracement to 4,400," Gan said. "They have to be supported by improved earnings which should push the market above the 4,600 within the month. Other people will be anticipating better prospects ahead of the Chinese New Year (on Jan. 23)."

There were 131 advancers against 61 decliners while 29 stocks were unchanged.

Investors continued to load up on selective blue chips while producing gains from others, resulting in mixed trade.

Index stocks that contributed to the day's gains were DMCI, SLPI, ALI, AC, Petron-bank, SM Megamall, URC and ICT SI.

On the other hand, the PSEi's star for the day was tempered by the decline of BDO, SMPI, AC3, BMC, Meralco and BDC.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones Industrial Index was up by 25.06 points, or 0.17 percent, to 12,420.41. Bob's C. Dumbao

Korean Air Wins Best Asian Airline and Best Airline Advertising Campaign

SEOUL, South Korea – For the fifth consecutive year, Korean Air has been voted as the best airline in Asia by readers of Business Traveler magazine.

The magazine's readers also ranked Korean Air's advertising campaign the best in the business for the fourth year in a row.

"We are honored to be named best airline in Asia for the fifth consecutive year," said John Jackson, Korean Air's VP of Marketing for the Americas. "Korean Air is committed to providing travelers the most comfortable environment and attentive service. We're happy that Business Traveler readers around the world are acknowledging that."

Korean Air recently introduced A380 flights to Asia from JFK and LAX, and is America's largest Asian airline, flying from many cities in the Americas to more destinations in Asia than any other carrier.

As for the global advertising, "The campaign is continuing to translate," says Connie Park, director of the Korean Air team at HSAD. "It's sensual, chic, and stylish and has a bit of spice that's creating attention to the brand."

Jackson said Korean Air's ad campaign "reflects the sleek and progressive nature of our services. We offer unparalleled service into Asia from the Americas and our advertising reflects this unique aspect."

Korean Air's service has been recognized worldwide repeatedly. This year, Korean Air was been awarded Best Airline in Northern Asia and Best Airport Staff/Gate Agent by Global Traveler magazine in its annual GT "Skies" Awards. Other publications like Conde Nast Traveler and Travel & Leisure also have praised Korean Air's service.

About Korean Air:

Korean Air, with a fleet of 142 aircraft, is one of the world's top 20 airlines, and operates almost 600 flights per day to 118 cities in 40 countries. It is a founding member of the SkyTeam alliance, which together with its 15 members, offers its 407 million annual passengers a worldwide system of more than 14,580 daily flights covering 926 destinations in 173 countries.

In 2011, Business Traveler named Korean Air the best Asian airline for the fifth consecutive year, while Global Traveler awarded the airline with best airline in northern Asia and best airport staff/gate agent. The honor was the 2011 global travel catering distinction award by the international magazine, while World Traveler magazine rated it as having the world's best inflight service. Travel & Leisure magazine ranked way it is one of the world's top 10 international airlines and readers of Conde Nast Traveler magazine rated Korean Air one of the world's top ten global airlines.

More on Korean Air's programmes, routes, frequencies and partners is available at www.koreanair.com

BUSINESS

Globe bets big on 'green' network technology

Ayala-led telco aims to reduce reliance on fossil fuels

By Paolo G. Montecillo

PHILA-LED Globe Telecom Inc. may be engaged in one of the most competitive industries in the country, but the company is not forgetting that its growth should not only help shareholders' profit, but also ensure environmental sustainability.

The company said in five-year modernization programs would involve state-of-the-art "green" technologies that aim to reduce the company's reliance on energy from fossil fuels.

"Globe has always been conscious of how our operations impact the environment with our small-scale renewable energy deployment in previous years," said Robert Tan, chief technical advisor of Globe.

"With the network modernization in place, we are moving to a bigger and more massive green network with the incorporation of highly efficient and reliable hardware technologies and solutions for reduced operational expenses and lowered carbon dioxide emissions," he said.

Globe intends to spend nearly P000 million for its network modernization.

Part of the budget would go to the deployment of solar and wind-energy powered cellsites, in keeping with Globe's plan to increase its "green" cellsites by over 200 percent.

The will boost energy savings through reduction in carbon footprint and power consumption, generating fuel savings of up to 60 percent.

Network equipment would also be refreshed with upgrades featuring autosensing as well as operate on natural cooling methods, resulting to more efficient use of commercial power and 30 percent worth of fuel savings.

Once the network modernization program is completed, Globe expects to have one of the "greenest" networks in Southeast Asia.

To achieve this, Globe said it would tap technology from its network silicon partner, China's Huawei International, which boasts of a line of Green Energy and Green Site solutions.

Honey for health and wealth

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

IF YOU want your "honey" to be happy, invest in honey. It will bring forth health and wealth.

At the first International Symposium on Honey and Health held in Sacramento, California in January 2008, the following significant findings were disclosed: honey eradicates dandruff, as shown when 32 percent of cancer patients in an immunity study reported improvement in their quality of life as a result of fewer infections; honey is better (compared to the body than sweeteners leading to better blood sugar control; and honey is a more effective cough remedy than methadone for children from two to 18 years.

An article in the Jan. 17, 1995 issue of the Canadian Magazine "Weekly World News", meanwhile, told that the following diseases can be cured by honey and cinnamon:

1. Hoarse disease. Make a paste out of honey and cinnamon powder; apply to head to dissolve jelly or jam, and eat it regularly for breakfast. It reduces cholesterol in the arteries and saves the patient from a heart attack.

2. Arthritis. In a Copenhagen University study, doctors treated their patients with one tablespoon of honey and a half teaspoon of cinnamon powder before breakfast. Within a week, 73 of the 200 patients were totally relieved of pain. Within a month, "nearly all the patients who could not walk or move around because of arthritis started walking without pain".

3.Cholesterol. Two tablespoons of honey and three teaspoons of cinnamon powder mixed in 16 ounces of hot water, taken three times a day can bring down cholesterol levels.

4. Immune system. Scientists have found that the daily consumption of honey and cinnamon powder protects the body from bacterial and viral attacks because they have large amounts of vitamins and iron. These strengthen the white blood corpuscles that fight bacterial and viral diseases.

Wealth

With more people knowing honey's health benefits, the demand for honey will increase and thus presents a good business opportunity.

We constructed the table below from the information given by John Dumagay (09054 177 613) of the Philippine Coconut Administration (PCA). This is from his owned experience helping coconut farmers. The only difference in the results as compared to non-coconut farmers is the initial 30 percent increase in copra yield because of the pollinating provided by the honeybees.

The small P15,000 investment needed for the two honeybee colonies during the first year can yield enough income to subsequently fund two more colonies for the second and third years, resulting in a total of six colonies. If we subtract the P15,000 needed at the end of years 1 and 2 to provide for the new colonies, the farmer is still left with P9,000 and P27,000, respectively. From then on, the annual net income will be P60,000. Not bad for a P15,000 investment!

If the small farmer does not have this P15,000, a loan from the Land Bank can easily be paid before the end of the second year. He will then have a net income of P27,000 for the two years and an annual P60,000 net income from the third year onwards.

Despite these very attractive prospects, the PCA has no program for a honeybee project for coconut farmers, reportedly because of "lack of funds".

Recommendation

We recommend that the Department of Agriculture (DA) forge a Memorandum of Agreement with the Land Bank for a special loan program for this and other similar projects. Instead of requiring full blown feasibility studies that small farmers are not capable of doing, the very innovative new Land Bank procedure of doing a feasibility study template for the farmers and adjusting this for local conditions should be adopted. In fact, this successful practice is done only for sugarcane.

We have talked with PCA Administrator Euclides Forbes, Dir. Agricultural Training Librarian Asiatic Salico and Land Bank Executive Vice President Cecilia Bautista about this. They agreed in principle to support this. We now await the favorable response from their bosses. Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala and Land Bank President Gilda Ples.

As for a non-coconut farmer, he or she can get funding from other sources. The New Year can then start with prospects of better health, more wealth, and a more happy "honey" from this promising new venture in honey.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, former secretary for presidential flagship programs and projects, and former undersecretary for Agriculture, and Trade and Industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatch.phil@yahoo.com or visit/fax (02) 8522112)

HONEYBEE INCOME

Product	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Honey	P15,000	P36,000	P45,000
By-Products	P1,000	P4,000	P6,000
Increase/ (Capital Outlay)	P1,000	P6,000	P9,000
Total	P14,000	P42,000	P60,000

LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty
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PRADA'S Saffiano PS1 bag

CLASSIC: Louis Vuitton Alma in bright Pomme d'Amour vernis leather

Gone were the back-breaking, shoulder-straining large bags of yesteryear. It seems 2011 was all about smaller and more feminine versions

Why 2011 was a good year for bags

Ingrid Chua-Go

THE BAG HAG DIARIES

TOP HANDLE: Fendi Silvana in red snake skin

DOLCE & Gabbana animal-print fluorescent bag

IT WAS definitely a good year for bags, lead by the 62 percent surge in sales and a staggering climb in profits of the 40-year-old lifestyle brand Mulberry, thanks to TV presenter and former model Alexa Chung, the inspiration and muse behind the new famous Alexa bag.

It doesn't hurt the company's bottom line, either, as Catherine, the Duchess of Cambridge, was recently seen carrying one of the brand's bags.

Understandably gone were the more back-breaking, shoulder-straining large bags of yesteryear. It seems that 2011 was all about smaller and more feminine bags. Think Grace Kelly and her Hermès bag, the new Duchess and her Mulberry peekaboo bag and even the Queen of England and her full-safe traditional Launer Launer bag, which contributed to a 60-percent sales increase of the style within the brand after she was seen carrying it to her grandson's wedding to the then Mr Middleton.

Bright colors also took over 2011. From bright reds to cobalt blues and even fluorescent yellows, pinks and oranges, eye popping colors were the popular choice. Color blocking was in, so pairing already bright clothes with a bright bag was very on-trend.

Hermès was spot-on with this when the label came out with bright candy colors which were the Birkin, Kelly and Evelyne bag lovers into a buying frenzy, resulting again in lack of supply because of the ever-whelming demand.

Celine was also on the runway where fluorescent colors for the signature luggage tote and the tan bag were produced. And like Hermès, they, too, had a long-waiting list for the super popular style.

The designer brands are smart. Another way to get their clients excited? Produce limited-run versions of their most coveted bags. With much success, brands like Mulberry, Hermès, Celine, Dolce & Gabbana and even Louis Vuitton debuted mini versions of their classic styles. You used to be a very good bag editor to carry a bag so small, but in the end people took to them because they were very cute, and were considerably less expensive than their larger counterparts.

Democratized

The satchel was already popular last year, led by Proenza Schouler's PS1 and the Mulberry Alexa, but this year that style was democratized by a label called The Cambridge Satchel Company. It was an instant winner among many bag lovers not only because of the sturdy bag in bright colors that were nearly impossible to resist, but also because the price points were very reasonable and affordable. Kate Spade also has a similar style and that, too, has sold incredibly very well.

The year 2011 allowed women to explore the "wild side" with animal prints on bags. Dolce & Gabbana and Roberto Cavalli remain at the forefront of this trend, although to them, this is no seasonal trend but forms part of their brands' DNA.

"This year, animal prints went cross-generational. From the nylon totes of Marc by Marc Jacobs to the signature bags of Roberto Cavalli and Miss Sixty bags of Dolce & Gabbana, bags like these inject that excitement and fun in an otherwise conservative outfit.

More and more bags made from exotic skins are coming out on the market. Exotics are for women who have "graduated" from their regular leather bags and want something more unique and "conversation" for them. Although there will always be those who remain completely against this trend, the demand continues to increase.

Louis Vuitton's Spring/Summer 2012 collection is something to watch out for, but current favorites include bags from Stacey Gonzales, Ted's, Lanvin, Fendi and yes, Hermès.

I can't wait to see which of these trends will be carried over in the new year and onto the next season. And while one or two of these trends will likely become passé, they will no doubt resurface again in the not-on-the future, so keep those bags well.

Visit www.thebaghags.wordpress.com and twitter.com/thebaghag

HERMÈS: Rouge in bright Hibiscus Birkin

MINI Mulberry Bayswater bag in magenta

CAMBRIDGE Satchel in bright orange suede

ALFONSO Ily at Enjoy Philippines, LA Corning-Lopez, Kiko Yao of Eleventh High, marketing communications consultant Carmina Sanchez-Jacob, Philip Co-Airjazz

JANICE Sy, Philippe Charriol, Carol Malusay, Hans Mangulabnan of GH Department Store, Gilbert Cristi

JOY SIO-LEE of Vibal Vision Center, Kaye Quiazon of Yahoo! Philippines

Eyewear line sports the look of luxury

WORLD CLASS BRAND Philippe Charriol launched its eye-catching Sports 2012 Eyewear Collection at Resorts World in Newport City also launched were Sports Charriol jewelry and fragrance, which followed the "two-in-a-pond" signature. Monsieur Charriol himself came to the launch.

The black and white flags with the Charriol logo to the center signified Monsieur Charriol's love for Formula One racing.

Enjoying the Charriol displays while sipping their cocktail drinks were SA Consulting Lopez of Bagtas TV host Jessli Salvador, and movers and shakers of the eyewear industry such as Dr. Cookie Garcia and Dr. Mercy Chan.

Monsieur Charriol talked about his vision for the eyewear line.

Luc Marquebreucq de Rambier, CEO of Grandlley Limited for the Near, Middle and Far East (ME-FE), Guidlley, Grandlley is the worldwide licensee for Charriol Eyewear), gave a short speech on the high-tech manufacturing of Sports Charriol Eyewear, distinguished by its black, red and gray color-dominated pieces. The executive said Charriol would soon be making pieces out of titanium, duralinga. All of this is a testimony to Philippe Charriol's expertise in edifice luxury jewelries, perfumes.

It's since said, I'm ready to wear the eyewear this summer. That is, if we will have a summer at all. What's your?

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen

penned by **MEEN MIAC SEVEN**

HUGE Hoang, Philippe Charriol, GrandRay Luxeries CEO for Ore-Near, Middle and Far East Luc Marquebreucq de Rambier

GLOBE Business brand ambassador Rose Ann Bautista and husband Rommel

MANNY Algeta presents an iPhone Rose Rose of Prince Manpower International

BABY Perez of Perez Optical, Lyle Cuicchetti

CARL Canaman, winner of the Sports Charriol watch, Luzviminda Manlapig

SUPERMODEL Yvonne Mananquil

"Innovation in our business solutions are amazing and are tools, like molecular gastronomy, to help us get more joy out of living."

New gem collections

The history of grand jewels is nothing short of fascinating, di Italia? Mix for one has always been attained by circles of fabulous wealth and early investments of exquisite gems. They exist as far-fetched today offerings, especially since most of court jewels from the Mughal Dreams, Siam royalty, the French and English crowns—there's almost a history.

It's been three astounding awesome seasons that Kristine Dee and Paul Sajoco were able to draw inspiration for "Dear Yaya." their latest jewelry line which was launched at the ever-popular Fiesta Carvelle 3. The boutique's proprietor with co-owners were Ricky Toledo and Chito Valquiño, hosted cocktails at Grandlley Belvedere Vodka and Kleval Pure Philippines beer conjoiners.

"I was inspired to create pieces that give a different level of elegance and luxury using a more playful approach," said Kristine. "Watching Disney fairy-tale movies and listening to the soundtracks as I designed, I don't know if this had a strong influence on the outcome, but it definitely kept the royal mood light and fun!"

Check Sajoco's dabblings. upside earrings of Ceylon blue sapphires with brilliant-cut diamonds and baby pink quartz; a seductive ring of rubies and rhodolites; and a Venetian necklace of the most lustrous South Sea pearls.

Kristine said he was inspired by the incredibly large stones and the formal symmetry. "However, I injected some movement, tension and whimsy so as to lighten the whole look," he said. "During the creative process, I noticed a large part of my collection gave nod to the Mughal era with 'decadence' as the guiding principle. My passion is the 'soul of the piece' product. But I made sure everything would still be wearable."

Mel couldn't help but notice that those who got the nod Kristine Dee and Paul Sajoco pieces were very proud with their designs.

CHRIS Cahig, Hans Montenegro, Globe Telecom president and CEO Ernest Cu, Globe Business/PE head for corporate and SME segments Michelle Poño

Globe Business gig

Globe Business threw a VIP bash for the movers of the corporate world at The Establishment at The Fort, dubitings.

The excellent menu had a bit interesting presentation of "Molecular Gastronomy." Chef Dan Ho amazed the invitees with a demonstration of "how the fields of science, particularly physics and chemistry, may be applied to cooking, serving, presentation. how the molecular gastronomy artistically enriches the legacy of our culinary arts—giving us what we all look for when we dine: visually enchanting foods that pleasure the palette and the other senses."

Globe president and CEO Ernest L. Cu welcomed the corporate cognitos. Jesus "Sailing" Romero, head of Globe Business, gave a super applauded welcome speech.

Manny Encina, head of marketing, corporate and SME segments, said: "We get together in a chance to share with all of you the many new offered by Globe Business. Cloud and M2M (machine-to-machine communication)."

Met was told that Cloud is a service that allows subscribers to store and back up huge amounts of their important data using Globe Business' IT infrastructure. This gives users the advantage of having an always-secure and reliable storage facility, done through Globe Business' "virtual machines."

Meanwhile, M2M enables machines and equipment to remotely exchange real-time data with other machines, people or information systems through Globe Business' communication network, regarding its network, productivity maintenance and repair concerns faster, enabling quick response.

Entertainment personalities Arnie Rodalgo and KJ Jimenez provided great sounds, the latter from his iPod guitar.

"Through this event, we also wanted to send out the message that Globe Business is, first of all, about helping Filipinos enjoy greater quality of life," said Manny Algeta.

DAETTI sy of Globe Business Globe Business head of corporate and SME segments Manny Algeta, Jan Jong Jong, chairman of Zhi Ship Inc.; April Cuaille of Uni-Ship Inc.; Nikki Tan of Globe Business

ALTERNATIONS Pins owner Lucilla Cortes, businesswoman Bubby Chavez

MANNY Algeta, Yen Gilbert, Duke of Kamon Philippines, Ernest Cu, Ana Ramos Duke of Kamon Philippines, Marian Antonio of Globe Business

CORNAR'S Lianne and Charlie Jopson

MARK and Cherry Ello of Fitness First

CHOY and Marina Cojuangco

MARON Duavit, Vicky Arbuey de Luna

ANITA Sy, Fiona's Peter Toledo and Chito Valquiño, Kristine Dee, Paul Sajoco

JINNY de Guzman, Annie Young

CHRISTOPHER Uy, Alice Chouzenx, Celina Sarmiento, Evelyn Uy

Usher the leap year with your new fashion self

This 2012, it's all about smoldering eyes, luscious lips and sparkling skin

START THE YEAR right with a new makeover.

To begin a new year right, I think it's important to end the year right. You can start by finishing all pending responsibilities, so that you can begin with a new slate and not be bogged down by carryover holiday deadlines or unfinished business and household chores.

It's also important to have some resolutions in mind to further improve yourself. I've made mine myself. And am copying!

The best resolutions are the ones that have nine inflection and changes just little it. Find an objective resolution to have to skin color filed will improve your outward appearance. If you can't stand looking at your old self in the mirror then why put the people you meet through the same torment? After all, no fashion statement or accessory defines better than a positive and radiant self!

This 2012, it's all about smoldering eyes, luscious lips and sparkling skin! And I'm not talking about any makeup trend. I'm talking about an inner radiance that can only be brought about when you're feeling warm and happy inside.

To illustrate what I mean, I contacted Colleen, a busy perfumista in her third year of residency. Her days are filled with endless patient calls and long shifts, much like what you see in "Grey's Anatomy." Previous schedules of doctor-dictatorship ensure time spent pestering herself in the bathroom. She would rare to look good if you've only had 3-4 hours' sleep? So the other services at work bewildered and flabbergasted from rushing to the hospital.

Although her pleasing personality and radiant smile light up the room, I'm sure her patients would appreciate a more pulled together look. So I asked makeup artist Carmie Lozada to give Colleen a quick makeover. Her new look is completed using minimal products and minimal makeup tools, so that Colleen can recreate the look using just fingers.

COLLEEN, before (above) and after

Isabel Rocas

The Day Look

"Sleep deprivation can take a toll on one's skin and cause some breakouts and flakiness," Lozada said. "So I applied an even layer of Silicon Mitlleide face forward primer on Colleen's face. It's an acne reliever formula that smoothens fine lines, and helps treat future breakouts while providing SPF protection."

"Since girls like Colleen need multipurpose products since they're always on the go," Carmie explained, "I covered the trouble areas and pigmentation lines with One Forward Two-Gel Concealer. Its texture like consistency makes it incredibly easy to use, perfect for girls who don't like wearing make up.

"Using clean fingers, I applied a pink lip and cheek stain on her cheeks and lips. They are so versatile you can even borrow another product, they are also long-lasting, which means you don't have to worry about touch-ups!"

Lozada then used a mineral powder to set the concealer and further even out her complexion.

"Mineral powders are great for people who don't have the time to touch up, since they are easy to apply and practically find proof," said Lozada.

Next step was the brows, which Lozada lightly defined with a taupe pencil. "Most girls overdefine their brows but I contour it with a straight line and a sweep for well-groomed and well-defined brows."

Lastly Lozada curled Colleen's lashes, applied mascara and topped her lips with a touch of pink gloss for some shine. "If you use your hair a minute, try lightening your upper lash and waterline with a black or dark brown pencil to give your eyes more definition."

The Night Look

Using makeup that Colleen already had on, Carmie swept a small amount of shimmery champagne-colored shadow on the eyelid, concentrating on the inner corners of the eyes and the brow bone.

Lozada added one or two coats of mascara then applied a berry- or wine-colored lipstick.

"For makeup photographers," Lozada said, "give deep or bright lipsticks a chance by using it as a cream instead. Use a clean finger to dab a small amount of the lipstick to well-moisturized lips. The effect is more subtle but just as festive."

For more of Carmie Lozada's makeup creations, checkout makeupcarmie.multiply.com. You can also call her at 0920 [illegible]

BACKSTAGE PASS

SEE HOW to look an appointment.

New anti-blackhead formula

A number of ladies choose to face the new year with a fresh face. Let cricket! As in no makeup, just good old soap and water before heading out to the office and do—nothing wrong with being comfortable in your own skin. So for those ladies, Neutrogena has launched a deep-clean blackhead eliminating line, to remove excess blackheads and prevent new ones from forming.

For years, blackheads have been the No. 1 skin concern among Filipino women, second only to pimples.

The Neutrogena product range offers a simple 3-step solution, so after just two weeks, you will see significantly clearer and blackhead-free skin.

STEP 1. Neutrogena Deep Clean Blackhead Eliminating Daily Scrub. This is a gentle scrub that helps remove dead skin cells and aids in the unclogging of normal size, non-inflamed pores. In processing their return, you can

NEUTROGENA Deep Clean Blackhead Eliminating Daily Scrub

(300ml/P395)

STEP 2. Neutrogena Deep Clean Blackhead Eliminating Warming Treatment. This creamy mask (applied with water) will open up your pores for easier blackhead removal so that you can scrub out those blackheads. As you wash off the treatment, you are also washing off some of the blackheads! (4 x 5g/P495)

STEP 3. Neutrogena Deep Clean Blackhead Eliminating Cooling Toner. The final step seals down and calms the skin, as the pores constrict to their original size. Now free of blackheads.

SPECIAL OFFER! Only 11,995.00
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new!
Picture City

The unassuming Crispy Pata and why Pinoys can't get enough of it

Sooo Pinoy

By Michelle Velez

There's always one rare dish you first gulp eating but you just cannot resist. Especially when it's as tasty and deliciously heavenly as the famous Crispy Pata. Yup, it's no first that, and everyone is probably trying to fit in weight reduction as part of their New Year's resolutions. But oh! Though, just can't resist that crunchy pata once it is served on the table.

When some elderly people in several visit crispy pata, they would instantly refer to it as "pamplona (modern pre-food young)," a parody to the cholesterol-laden dish, which can probably trigger common allergies for the "high" Dr. high blood pressure. There's no need for strict health-conscious Filipino can indulge in the tender and crunchy goodness of crispy pata every single once in a while, especially when done perfectly.

Crispy pata (deep-fried pork trotter or knuckles) is never complete without its perfected companions: spicy, vinegar, lemon sugar and chopped onions. While always in demand, especially by patrons, Crispy Pata is quite complex and intricate to cook. Choosing the right pig's hind leg is crucial, as well as choosing younger or more mature pigs. The latter can be tight for developing more meat/muscle. The pig must be against its appreciation to certainly a culinary artist. Also, frying the pig's knuckles doesn't suffice. The meat has to be cooked to achieve its perfect condition. Pig's trotter and knuckles are also used in other cuisines such as pinoy-style pork hocks, Chinese pata tim, Thai pata, Vietnamese pata kho, Filipino pata tim, Thai pata, Vietnamese pata kho, Filipino pata tim, Thai pata, Vietnamese pata kho, Filipino

Fabulous Sale at SM Mall of Asia

SM Mall of Asia makes a fashionable and fabulous entrance for 2012 with their End of Season Sale! The top lifestyle mall is giving you the most awaited sale of the season with the most stylish fashion choices up to 70% off from the hottest shops. Let's start the year by shopping for something new and dressing for a better you. All these and more only at the premier shopping destination of Manila. SM Mall of Asia!

Walk Like A Gentleman with Pedro

G/F Main Mall, Tel Nos. 5581449/ 5581450

Pedro is set to strap you on for a galactic transformation this 2012. Fierce and fearless women would fit Pedro's line of stilettos, pumps, sandals and flats with risqué silhouettes, textures, prints and colors. Pedro's collection of leather shoes for men represents class and impeccable taste. Their smart casual shoe designs are fun, stylish, flexible, and will suit her you-name-it-or-any-type of occasion. For the stylish and the fearless, Pedro is a perfect match for the sole.

Celine Goes Fun and Playful

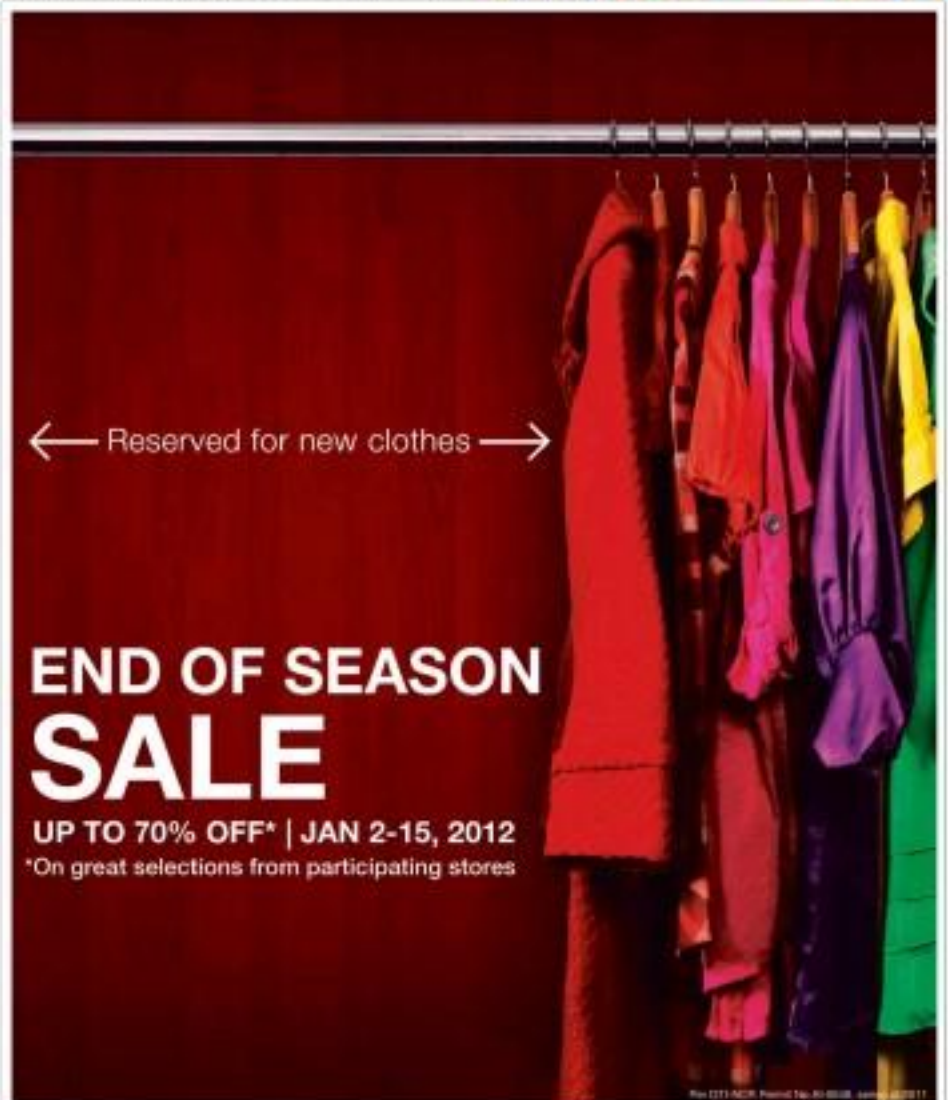
G/F Main Mall, Tel No. 5583953

Let Celine prep your toes for the new year with their fun and feminine-ly shoes! Wear the rainbow as you wear their bright red, royal blue, hot pink, and many more colors! flats, sandals, wedges and stilettos. Get a handful of stylish bags at Celine and a beautiful collection of accessories- golden layered necklaces, turquoise rings, cuffs and bangles and a few line of fashionable sunglasses and tops, ready to make you a total head turner!

A Soleful Shopping Experience at VNC

G/F Main Mall, Tel No. 5580179

Everything white and wide with rows of shoes crafted with elegance and sophistication— that can only be VNC. They offer high-quality and classic looks for the feet with their black patented stilettos, light pink ruffled peep toes, sequined pumps of black and silky pink. The shop also comes with beaded and studded sandals, edgy wedges and they also take you back to Cadillac heels. VNC creates depth and class into your sole.



SM MALL OF ASIA

A FASHIONABLE START

Dress up and welcome 2012 with new clothes, new style and a new you! SM Mall of Asia lets you get all these with their End of Season Sale up to 70% off on selected items from all participating stores. We guarantee another year of the biggest and best sales in the metro only at the mall like no other, SM Mall of Asia!

2bU
Editor Thelma Bunoan Sanjuan Contributing Editor Noel Cabal
LIFESTYLE

11 awe-inspiring people of 2011

By Ivanna Agcaoili
Lead Intern

These outstanding individuals are strong in their conviction, generous with their gifts and persevering in their passion

AMID THE STORMS we had to weather in 2011, certain rhizomes stood out, gleaming with enabled humans (human qualities)—they were strong in their convictions, generous with their gifts and persevering in their passion. We, the youth, can definitely learn from these heroes.

1. Who could be more deserving of recognition than the 17-year-old Visayan lay caterchist Bedro Cabungcal, who died from attempting to defend a fellow mission worker? Young as he was, he displayed steadfastness in defending his faith amid overwhelming. Beatified by our beloved Pope John Paul II in 2000, his canonization was recently approved by Pope Benedict XVI, making him only the second Filipino to become saint, next to Lorenzo Ruiz.

2. Another Cabungcal made it to the papacy. Scultorr Edgar Jo Cabungcal was among our unsung heroes who endured, carving lives from flying phrases. "Scrubing," which ravaged Cagayan de Oro and Iligan City, flight flood victims were rescued by the crew of a passing ship, MV Yung A. There were, among other rescuers, proved that Superthan remains alive in us.

3. From across the seas, one more ethos of pride, as Filipino-American midwife Robin Lim was awarded the coveted CNN Hero of the Year. "Peace begins at birth," Lim says. Mother Robin, as locals fondly call her, transformed the pain of losing her sister into good deeds that benefit mothers in Indonesia. She established Yayasan Bumi Sehat (Healthy Mother Earth) Foundation International to ensure the peaceful and gentle delivery of babies into our world.

4. The youth are the source of our pride. International School Manila ninth graders Cristian Webb, Imran Ramos and Sierra Hilarides placed fifth out of 31 teams in the Open Category Junior High School Division at the 2011 World Robot Olympiad (WRO) held in Abu Dhabi.

5. In "Stop Bullying Blind," the nationwide search for youth who emulate our national hero, among the awardees was 18-year-old Julius Pellos who gathered natives from hurdle from the University of the Philippines. Despite offers from top companies, he opted to pay it forward. At 18, he started teaching mathematics to his peers in his alma mater.

6. Another 19-year-old, Justine Mina, led the storytelling at the National Children's Book Reading Day celebration at SM City Bicutan; Justine kept her audience in awe. She has low eyesight when she was 7 but, she declares, "My condition does not define me."

7. 8 Filipino private chef won in the 2012 Awards for Asian Food Channel's Next Celebrity Chef is was 20-year-old Brian Ferrari, who beat 35 finalists from all over Asia. His years cooking chair at MVC will no sadly end year.

8. Quite a number of firsts happened in 2011. Bamboo Flyers Magazine became the first Filipina, and only the second Asian, to win the 2011 Bird Improvement of the World Competition in New York City. Beating more than 70 contestants from around the globe, she received a $250,000 modeling contract from Ford Models.

9. Another Filipino in New York inspires young students to aim high and succeed in their chosen fields. Bro Santos grew up among the Pinoy gifted children. Now, he resides in New York, a scholar in the prestigious Juilliard School. He reveals his long-term dream of wanting to come back to the Philippines to share with our young aspiring musicians what he has been blessed to learn from the world's greatest artists.

10. Out of 100 entries, the all-Filipino social enterprise Ideyamotive bags First Place in the Bernidenough Innovation Grant, a global call for entrepreneurs and SMEs for the most innovative business idea that will have an impact on poverty alleviation in the Philippines. Ideyamotive builds strong, sustainable and scalable social enterprises in communities rebuilt by Gawad Kalinga. Here rising social entrepreneurs are coming together and investing in businesses for returns that are more important than money.

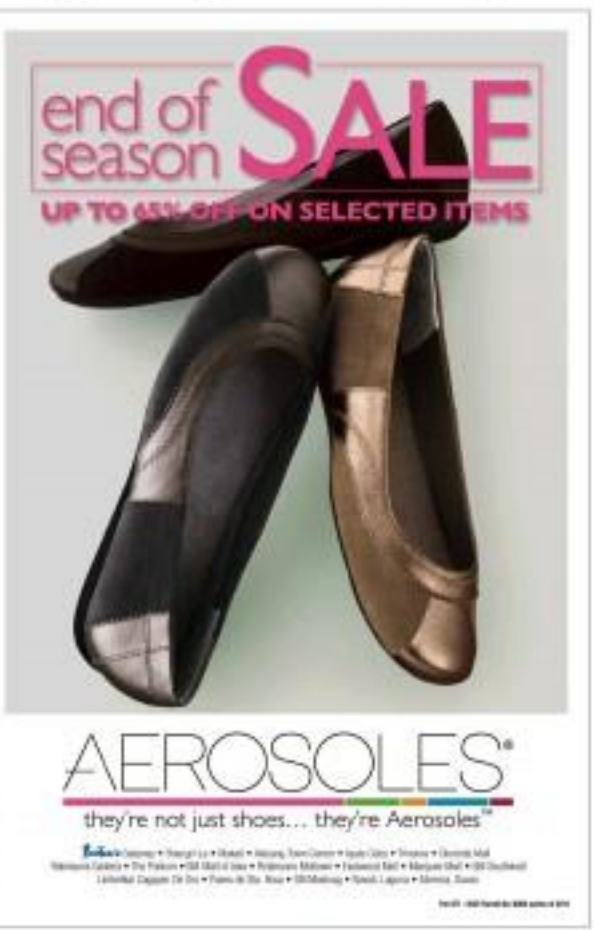
11. Lastly, the astounding leaps of Marestella Torres in the long jump event at the SEA Games not only produced the first gold for Team Philippines, it also turned out to be record-breaking. Her competitors could not even come close to her 6.71 m record.

"All the great things are simple, and many can be expressed in a single word: freedom, justice, honor, duty, mercy, hope," Sir Winston Churchill said. These awe-inspiring stories did not pop up from a click of a button, a snap of a finger or a blink of an eye.

We stand in awe when hearing these people's stories because they struggled through decisions and action—and shrank gold in the end.

SOCIOPRENEURS build—strong, sustainable and scalable social enterprises in communities rebuilt by Gawad Kalinga. (Right) New York-based Bro Santos is a scholar in the prestigious Juilliard School.

TWENTY-SIX-YEAR-OLD Dino Fernandez won the ENO Search for Asian Food Channel's Next Celebrity Chef and will have his own show. Below, Julius Pellos (left, front row) at the Bagong Bayani Awards



GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPPA

PUGAD BABOY BY PHILJUNGOB

DICK TRACY BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CLARK

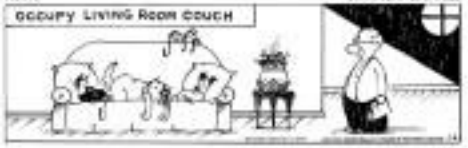
LOVE-MOTS BY ELIZABETH HOROWITZ

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

RHYME MACHINE BY FRANK ABERRA

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS BY PATRICK MCDONNELL



SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULDOG BY MARA CALL

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) This is a great day to make long-range plans for travel, further education or anything having to do with multicultural issues. You're in very positive state of mind.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Use the energy of today to clean up misunderstandings with a friend, lover, parent, boss, client or anybody you want totally efficient. You will get a lot done!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Communicate with partners and close friends and be practical and productive today. Romantic sparks want to ignite. Discuss the best ways to educate or take care of children.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Work today, discuss tactics, bring work that requires attention to detail. Your professionalism will stand and others can see just how good you (and your thoughts!) about!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Romantic surprises can make good coffee today. Discovering about the interests of a lover, friend or client can help you plan a wonderful surprise. Be open to positive criticism of someone's will be equally productive.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) This is a good day in order here to do something festive at home or in some respect. You want to use solid, practical tools for your efforts. Romantic or recreational plans are accepted today. Creative, choice work that requires attention to detail, because you'll be able to accomplish a lot.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Discussions or recommendations are positive today. Creative, choice work that requires attention to detail, because you'll be able to accomplish a lot.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Work plus an accompanying plan or increased time efforts today, because one plans that you make will have long-range benefits in the future. You want to check details, either.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Discussions with people who live close or work closely with you are favored today. This is a wonderful day to make advice, especially advice that will benefit you for a long time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Your interests will be important today. You have many wishes, hopes and plans you've been thinking about. Whatever you're feeling you'll find it!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Socialize, take favorable for you today. Be open to listening. Quick deals, that person is someone in a group situation who is more experienced and wise.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Mind some extra thought to your life direction in general today. Discuss feelings where you and you want to go? Get materials for guidance. Where do you want it to be 10 years from now?

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs or www.sudoku.com

Concepts Sudoku — By Dave Green

		3	4		9	1		
6								5
	2			7			8	
9								2
		1				5		
8								3
	5			1			2	
7								6
		6	7		5	4		

Difficulty Level ★★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

2bU's top 10 unique, affordable 2012 planners

By Lyca Marie Angel Bricenio
Student contributor, University of the Philippines Diliman

Planners for the highlighter freak, the adventurous foodie, the A+ student, even for those who don't believe in planners

IF YOU haven't committed to a particular 2012 planner yet, here are 10 one-of-a-kind candidates for your consideration as a year-long companion.

Design Your Life Planner

Best for: the highlighter freak

Can't get enough of fadeless highter Light up your 2012 with this easy Inexcessive planner! The minds behind U & is Designs have been producing their own planners since 2006. This year's offering features of a unique design for each month and comes with stickers, a compartment for notes and a space for 3R pictures.

Price: P500, free shipping nationwide

How and where to buy: Fill out the order form at cmmsyou.multiply.com. Visit Design Your Life Planner on Facebook.

Awesome Planner

Best for: The adventurous foodie

From the man behind the food and trek blog, "One Awesome Planner" comes a planner that doubles as your next road trip companion. Choose from 12 local destinations to try each month. Fill out the vision board, and ditch the gullible tourist act by studying up on insider traveling tips. As a bonus, challenge yourself to try the 100 food and travel nonsense dare that made it to the DIY shortlist.

Price: P588, plus P180 for delivery anywhere in the Philippines

How and where to buy: Available at the following bazaars: Mercato Centrale at the Bonifacio Global City, Todos sa Molino Alabang and Todos sa Ortigas. Visit commonwealthplaza.com or Awesome Planner on Facebook.

Gawad Kalinga Planner

Best for: the catalyst for social change

Planners come and go, but the drive to make a difference shows is neither time nor place. Celebrate the transformative power of community involvement 365 days a year with the Gawad Kalinga planner, paving down your minute (and seismic) for a brighter Philippines in its simple monthly spreads.

Price: P450

Home stamp planners: The Sentechkid of 2nd Fine Arts students from UP Diliman, the planner features inside pages in pastel pink and a pocket for your knick-knacks.

Price: P580

How and where to buy: Fill out the order form at the Chow Stamp Planner book page.

The Ex-Kwentuhan Project 2012 Planner

Best for: the student with an A+ sense of humor

Turn your school day from blah to a blast with a planner personally designed for the time-grasping, zone-out-inducing, mass-tampering crowd. When the going gets rough and "hell week" rears its ugly head, keep your cool with the planner's hefty supply of jokes, pick-up lines and trivia.

Price: P500

How and where to buy: Call Carlo at 0906.4802944; Renalie at 0905-9525428, 8946-7307810; 0922-2391178. Visit Ex-KWELA-tion Project on Facebook.

Lego Planner

Best for: the child at heart

Make each day a touch more playful with this nifty Lego-inspired planner. Use your time-child lover all year round as the neat booklet keeps your milestones and building blocks in check for a solid, colorful 2012.

Price: P450

How and where to buy: Visit Penny-In Pastries on Multiply.

CLOSE Stamp 2012 Loves Planner for the shutterbug; Gawad Kalinga Planner calls to social action; colorful Lego-inspired planner

THE LAST Planner You'll Ever Have

The Last Planner You'll Ever Have

Best for: the deadline aficionado

Many people laugh off the Mayan prediction and look forward to debunking it by partying on Dec. 22. But there's always that one person who laughs a couple of seconds later than everyone else, mentally calculating the days left to check off the items in his/her bucket list. Arrange his/her year-long date of the unknown with the Last Planner's tongue-in-cheek predictions of the world's demise. Whether or not 2012 is the year of reckoning, nothing beats a go-getter sexy alien attitude—and a planner that imbibes such—to drive the doomsday blues away.

Price: P375

How and where to buy: Fill out the order form at thelastplanner.multiply.com. Visit "The Last Planner You'll Ever Have" on Facebook.

Moonleaf Planner

Best for: the milk tea addict

Crazy for Moonleaf? Then this planner will be just your cup of tea. All-out "Taiwanese" spirited organizer. Let your inner child loose all year round as this neat booklet keeps your milestones and building blocks in check for a solid, colorful 2012.

Price: P450

How and where to buy: Visit Penny-In Pastries on Multiply.

The Book of Yes

Best for: the person who doesn't believe in planners

Making schedules and keeping records of daily events isn't for everyone. The most spontaneous are inclined to resist anything even remotely organized, and may find regulating a planner too much of a chore. The Book of Yes may just be your best bet if you've never tore the leg picture from the small details. Featuring 10 lists that pertain to different facets of one's persona, this "life planner" supposes the bare essentials, daring you to push limits and to achieve more, no matter what day, month or year.

Price: P990

How and where to get it: Visit wonderfactlists.multiply.com.

ABOVE: Design Your Life Planner comes with embellishment stickers and compartments. Left: Moonleaf Planner for tea-milk tea addicts comes with discount coupons and free drinks on your birthday.

Celebrating New Year—silently

By Jean Raissa P Rioja
Contributor

Nine years without firecrackers! Not bland and boring, mind you

I DIDN'T attend any fancy New Year's Eve party. While the whole family was busy preparing dinner, I locked myself in my room, surfed the Internet, posted through 9gag.com, replied to chat messages and played games on my iPad.

New Year greetings started buzzing on my phone and my Facebook newsfeed by 7 p.m. Some of my friends who lived outside Davao invited me to Skype. I bid goodbye to 2011 (rather silently, but that didn't mean I wasn't leaving her).

Welcoming the New Year without firecrackers isn't so bad. Our neighborhood was quite silent—I could hear only the faint sound of a karaoke machine from afar. Living in Davao City, I've gone through New Year celebrations outside firecrackers for nine years! This doesn't always mean bland and boring celebrations, though.

Many of my friends have adapted to this kind of lifestyle, and have found many ways to amuse themselves minus the noisy firecrackers.

We still freak out when we hear explosions. A firecracker-free New Year squares me the stress of listening to news about firecracker injuries and accidents (or worse, experiencing it myself). These bloody stories aren't very pleasant to see at the start of the year.

The firecracker ban in Davao City has taught me to enjoy the things in life I often tend to overlook. For instance, family reunions and visiting friends' houses to eat, laugh and enjoy each other's company. I never get to do these on other days of the year.

Rare gathering

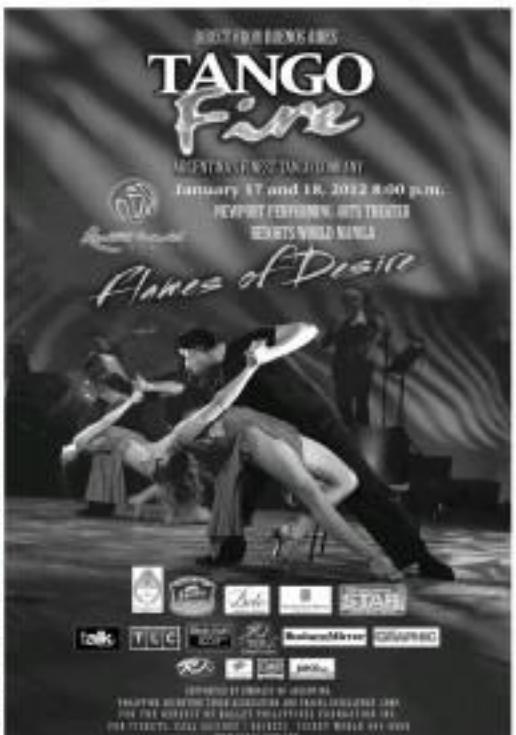
By 8 p.m., my family and I were having dinner. After that, we gathered at our uncle's house next door, to chat and listen to music. That is something we rare do only very rarely, because everyone seems to be busy during the other holidays of the year.

We spent the last few hours of the year gathered together and looking back at the awesome things that had happened during the past year. We also played charades, even did karaoke. Everything felt lovely.

At the stroke of midnight, all of us raised wine glasses (or in my case, a mug of chocolate drink) to usher the new year.

My celebration didn't end there. My friends and I continued our annual tradition of hanging out during the first day of the year. That means making someone's house—playing board games and watching movies, until we get tired of the lush final. The score is "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button."

And just like that, I left the New Year magic being with my dear friends and my loving family.



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By Shai Cagaoan

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ENTERTAINMENT

Edna Ermelo G. Velarde

Lifetime achievement award

MOBYL Group will get a lifetime achievement award from the Berlin Film Festival in February, where a retrospective of some of her most famous movies of the past 30 years will be shown, Reuters

MICHAEL Fassbender during our interview

No 'Shame' in Michael Fassbender's sex-addict role

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Rebecca I. Fajardo

LOS ANGELES—"I went to a lot of sex clubs and method porn stars day and night," Michael Fassbender said when asked how he researched for the role of the sex addict Brandon Sullivan plays in "Shame." He paused, and then added, laughing, "I didn't, actually."

Since winning the best actor award at the Venice Film Festival last September for his performance in the Steve McQueen-directed drama, Michael has bagged similar honors from various critics groups, including the Los Angeles Film Critics Circle. He earned a Golden Globe best actor-drama nomination and is up for a possible Oscar nod in early 2012.

Michael can look back with pride, not shame, on his 2011 movie roles, in which he likewise gained critical acclaim: as Carl Jung in David Cronenberg's "A Dangerous Method"; Rochester in Cary Fukunaga's "Jane Eyre"; and Magneto/Erik Lehnsherr in Matthew Vaughn's "X-Men: First Class."

Nude scenes

But his shares highest in "Shame" as Brandon, who has intimacy problems and feeds his compulsive addiction to sex with impersonal types and online porn surfing. The New Yorker's life is further unhinged when his unstable sister (Carey Mulligan) mobile home-ups and moves into his apartment. Michael's reaction when Carey sings Jen her own version a heartbreaking version of "New York, New York" leaves many viewers deeply moved. The actor not only bares himself emotionally but physically—he has several full frontal nude scenes.

"The emotional thing was being very open in order to try to understand Brandon," Michael said, in his unerring, calm voice, on how he tackled his role. Wearing an Irish cap, the Germany-born, Ireland-raised actor was relaxed and articulate. "I was in New York for like, eight weeks. I was in that love city in the small and I didn't go out at all because I was indoors with Brandon, trying to figure him out. I don't know if there was any formula. There were lots of reading through the script and breaking it down."

Clueless

Michael claimed that before director McQueen approached him for the role, he "didn't know anything about sexual addiction. I took it a bit flippantly. I laughed at the idea, but then you get to meet people who are suffering from it and are very much locked into that condition. You realize how many lives really get devastated by it and have very real problems in it."

He talked about meeting a

NO SHAME ©

FASSBENDER in a scene from "Shame": "I didn't want to distance my character too much from myself."

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No 'Shame' in Michael....

From page E1

particular case, "who opened him up and told me stories.... From those stories, I got a clear specific insight into Britney's problems which has to do with intimacy and the problems with having any emotional contact in a relationship. He just doesn't feel safe opening himself in so many other ways.

Vulnerable

"Fame usually, let's no longer in control of the scenario and feels very vulnerable and unsafe. That's why when we see the cases with Michaels, Britney, Amy's coworker played by Nicole Behaney, we realize that this is the one relationship perhaps where he could find some nourishment and nourishing."

While portraying ignominies about sexual addictions, Michael Shamed also does so humbly, whenever he plays a character like Brandon, he does look at him well.

Measuring stick

"That's the best interesting stick I have to watch the characters Brandon," he said. "I didn't want to distance him too much from myself. I wanted him to be one of us. I didn't want him to be the guy with the swear palms in the corner, staring at a work con. I needed to approach the role without any hiding behind anything. But I'm also very different from Brandon. Thank God. I don't have his life because he's in a lot of pain. He's somebody who doesn't like himself very much. That's the thing with addiction—if you have an active sex life or you are promiscuous or however you want to call it, it doesn't mean you're sexually addicted."

Manifestations

For Michael, addiction is "when you're caught in a pattern of behavior that is damaging to yourself, the relationships around you and your workplace. And even though you're aware of that, you find it so difficult to control those impulses. Whether it's gambling incessantly throughout the day, or having an unhealthy relationship with food—there are manifestations."

He disclosed that in entering people who are suffering from the addiction.

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2) ENTENG NG INA MO

GREENBELT 3

1) YESTERDAY TODAY TOMORROW
2) ANG PANDAY 2
3) ENTENG NG INA MO
4) MY HOUSE HUSBAND
5) KINGPIN: ASKONG SALONGA STORY

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7) ANG PANDAY 2

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Ariel Rivera joins 'Sound of Music' cast

By Pachelo Cornejo Jr

POP SINGER-ACTOR Ariel Rivera, along with 13 other performers, will join the cast of Resorts World Manila's (RWM) production of "The Sound of Music"—officials in an extended two-month run tonight until Feb. 12 at RWM's Newport Performing Arts Theater in Pasay.

"Some 75,000 people have seen the show. By the time we finish the run, we would have done more than 100 shows. We want to stage long-running shows," said Edgardo Sian, president of Travellers International Hotel Group, which operates RWM.

Sian was brimming with excitement when he talked to the business records. He kept referring to Newport's state-of-the-art light-emitting diode (LED) screen which enhances the multi-dimensional theatrical production of "The Sound of Music."

Good is accessibility

"We want to broaden the base of theatergoers," he said, "and to accessible so there are only in price, but also in terms of the level of the shows. So we put up this screen, one of the largest in Southeast Asia. That's one thing we've done this way."

He cited comments by Jacinto Brooks, representative of Broadway Asia, the company that administers the rights to produce "Sound of Music." Part of the requirements, Sian said, is that Brooks has to fly to Manila to watch the show. "To check if we're following the script, etc. He came in December, watched the show and wrote some thing, sort of a review. Sabi nga niya, ang ganda, the way he described it."

Bright lights

Part of Dunton's comments said: "To someone who intensely attends shows on- and off-Broadway, I see all kinds of performances, so I tend to be somewhat opinionated... What I will remember about this version of 'The Sound Of Music' is the cohesiveness of the experience... from entering the Resorts World complex, to the show itself, to the curtain call... all top-notch calibre... They use the same lights are bright on Broadway. Well, I'm here to tell you that they are for from done at Resorts World Manila."

Sian added that the show and the technology infused into it have opened new opportunity to attract a new kind of audience.

He elaborated: "Kids today are too video games. How do we introduce this generation to this theater? We feel that, to a certain extent, we've achieved that through 'Sound of Music.' And we want to continue doing so. We want as many Filipinos as possible to come and watch it and be proud that we have the technology to do something like this. This is an all-Filipino production, 100 percent."

Headliners

Sian recalled, "Some foreigners in the audience, pointing to Miguel Faustmann, think that we import talents. But, he's also Filipino, he just happens to have American heritage."

The show features Joanna Ampil and Cris Villonco alternating in the lead role of Maria von Trapp, along with Andre Garcia, Vicky Morales, Ricky Manojero, Faustmann, Basha Mathieli, Tanya Manahan, Paolo Dionisio, among others.

Rivera is set to play Captain Georg von Trapp, alternating with Gutierrez and Jon Avnet.

Leo Martinez has some on board as Max Detweiler, alternating with Faustmann and Bodjie Pascua.

The rest of the cast consists of: Jett Arcasas, Michaela Sidayuna, Michaela Sidayuna, Pearl Lu, Jeremy Dominic, Kata Hendrikson, Ayuko Chiu, Marielle Manuntag, Anya Herrera, Rachel Gomez, Shanti Gleason and Pooby Adiano.

Relief efforts

Proceeds of the Dec. 30 show were also donated to ongoing relief efforts for victims of Tropical Storm "Sendong." A total of P2.6 million raised by opening Hong Kong, Resorts World Manila and Alliance Global were likewise earned over to organizations, including ABS-CBN Foundation, which sponsored Jaga Kapamilya Operation Sendong.

"SOUND of Music," which was inspired by a book on the Trapp Family Singers, was the last musical written by Rodgers and Hammerstein.

ARIEL Rivera and Joanna Ampil during the latter's homecoming concert in 2010.

Thirteen other new members are led by Leo Martinez, as the Resorts World Manila production is extended till February 12

Why film board gave 'Asiong Salonga' remake the coveted 'A' grade

By Marinel R. Cruz

"MANILA Kingpin: The Asiong Salonga Story" earned a grade of "A" from the Cinema Evaluation Board (CEB) because it was a "fine example of a period film" and because its director, Theo Aguilar, was "able to establish believable characters through masterfully conceived and executed action scenes," said a reviewer.

"Asiong" is a remake of the 1961 film that starred former Senator Joseph Estrada. It is based on the life of Isidro's No. 1 gangster in the late 1940s. Manila "Asiong" Salonga, who was linked to a number of murders and homicide cases but eluded capture until he was killed by a rival gang(s) henchmen.

A coproduction of Viva Films and Scenema Concept International, it bagged 11 major awards, including best film, during the recent Gabi ng Parangal of the 37th Metro Manila Film Festival.

Tax rebate

A film grade "A" gets a 100 percent tax rebate; a film graded "B" gets 60 percent, according to CEB chair Christine Reyes.

"Asiong' is a worthy and welcome to-add for Aguilar; it is his tribute to old action films, albeit updated," another reviewer added.

Controversy hounded the film in such an extent that Aguilar demanded that his name be deleted from the credits and promo materials. He claimed that "Asiong" was rushed, crudely, and screened without his knowledge, and should no longer be attributed to him.

"The film is well-crafted, despite some scene meant to be more cinematic than formal," said a CEB summative report. "On the whole, it is an effort worth watching, (though) it tended to be too glamorized and stylized and, at times, almost self-indulgent."

More comments from reviewers: The script was "good and contained despite the underlying melodramatic undertones ... writers (Jei) Iglesias and Rey Vercara, who bagged the best screenplay trophy) are able to raise the movie material to the fullest. The cast performed well. Even the viper-thumping Golem (Jaden Rapadas), to the toothpick-biting Kuting (Dante Gerales), to the conflicted policeman/brother Phillip (Salvador)."

'Awkward' lead

Laguna governor E.E. Ejercito, who plays Asiong, "seems awkward in some scenes, but is supported well" by the cast, the CEB report said.

Another reviewer noted that "a more Pinoy-looking action" would have been more suitable, while others claim "the almost always perfectly outfitted and made-up" Carla Abellana.

But acting was mostly fine and editing was "very good... holding down the monotonity of the story (narrative)." It showed "economic precision," although some reviewers complained that there were too many fight scenes.

Another board member said: "The lighting, angles, perspective, and camera movements all reveal how particular the director was in what he wanted his audience to see and experience."

CARLA Abellana and E. Ejercito

"Worth watching, though it tended to be too glamorized and stylized, almost self-indulgent'

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Two queens in prime time series

ELAINE Bautista Crudo and Vivian Gamboa, two queens of Philippine cinema, star in the new Primetime Bida drama series "Reberting Kanggan," which premieres Jan. 16 on ABS-CBN.

The series, about two generations of star-crossed lovers, also features Rita Avila, Melissa Ricks, Joan Barton, Paulo Avelino, Richard Gomez, Raven Zabarte, Julia Montes and Coco Martin.

For updates, visit www.abs-cbn.com or follow absbroadcasting on Twitter.

Big brood

They say children are a great comfort in old age. But what happens when there are two dozen of children and hordes of grandchildren to support?

Such is life for Nenay Amy after being victimized and left to single-handedly fend for 21 children and grandchildren with her meager salary as extra sale.

But despite living in poverty, Nenay Amy couldn't be happier with the company of her "Family from Ubas."

The big family hosted in a simple (cramped) set for New Year's eve in tonight's episode of "Pasan Ko Buhay," after "Idol" on GMA-7.

Battle science

Dave Arellano explores battle science the Jan. 8 episode of "MAP" at 6:30 a.m. on GMA-7.

He and his team explore the different ships of the Philippine Navy and gets exclusive access to Gregorio del Pilar, the latest addition to the country's fleet of landcraft.

They also take a peek into the science behind the military artillery of each navy vessel and toss back in time with former astronaut-turned-engineer a.k.a. Mac Arthur in the history behind all of it.

Urban jungles

GS Designer and Home Hog director Gino's next intriguing home and makeover in TLC's new series "Lonely Hearts Kitchen Chinese."

Gil and Francis explore the urban jungles of Chengdu, Beijing, Qingdao, Shanghai, Xinjiang and Xi'an, connecting with art practitioners and quirky antiques in each city to discover its attractions and quirky antiques in each place.

It premieres Jan. 16 at 9 p.m. on TLC, with encores on Saturday at 12 p.m. and Monday at 3 p.m.

Hidden treasures

Dave Pritchard is a metaldetecting treasure hunter searching the back roads of the United Kingdom to discover hidden riches.

While he gets his hands dirty in the country's architectural backwaters, his quick vision of encounters is back at the shop gleaming cold and dare finds a new lease on life.

"Salvage Hunters" airs on Discovery Channel on Thursdays at 9 p.m. starting Jan. 12, with encores on Fridays at 11 a.m., 8 a.m. and 2 p.m.

HELEN Sanchez

No 'Shame'...

From page E1

there was a word that kept popping up: "shame" or "ashamed." Mohandi said, "In a, I was so ashamed of myself because it's [the] feeling when you're no longer in control of your impulses and compulsions. They're driving you and you find yourself to some pretty dangerous circumstances."

Michael brought up another side to the addiction issue: "He haven't really been telling about female sexual addiction which don't so rampant as male sexual addiction. But it's there. You find women who have put themselves into extremely dangerous scenarios. There's the shame in the lack of control of your own actions. You're being dominated by this addiction."

As to how Michael deals with sexual temptations in real life, he quipped with a smile: "The best cure for temptation is to just give into it...really."

In "A Dangerous Method," Michael's Carl Jung often put curveballs with Viggo Mortensen's Sigmund Freud, but it's a tribute to these favorites, Busch's director and Christopher Hampton's screenplay that these scenes are riveting.

Jamming with Viggo

Asked if he jammed with Viggo, a poet and musician, Michael answered, "There's a YouTube footage where we were singing outside the Belvedere [in Austria]. We used to sing a lot. That's something I do a lot of, anyway. It's like somebody will be up and read [for] me the rest of the line. It's like a way to be relaxed."

What songs did he and Viggo sing? "Anything really" said Michael, "like 'Young Girl' [by Gary Puckett & The Union Gap]. He was told that the song's old man, 'Young girl, get out of my mind,' was a fitting one for his character in both 'Shame' and 'A Dangerous...'

"I remember Viggo and I came barreling into the makeup room and singing. Kruse [Kingsley] was getting her hair done. We made her and the makeup artist jump out of their skin," said Michael.

As for poem readings with Viggo, Michael admitted, "My poetry skills are pretty non-existent. I've obviously looked at his work. I'm in awe of that. But I also play guitar though we never actually played music together."

This year, Michael continues his amazing ride. He will be seen with Daniel Brühl in Hermine Huntgeburth's "Haywire," and with Charlize Theron, Patrick Wilson and Kristin Scott Thomas in Ridley Scott's "Prometheus."

Email the columnist at reneplaz_1585@yahoo.com. Follow him at http://twitter.com/reneplaz.

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Editor Bonnie D. Velarde
ENTERTAINMENT
Living Stars

"ONDREA Elles Sua Sai' mother's bronze eyes. Her skin is very light and her hair, super thick," said Mr. Sonn about the newborn of his son Gyo and wife Kristine Hermosa. The couple recently announced this photo of the baby who was born on Dec. 26. Married 8 yrs

CHEER FACTOR

Another year of visiting celebs (Part 2)

LIVING Stars continues reminiscing about our visits last year with celebrities in their beautiful homes.

Young and old, they welcomed us into their dwellings, or rented to design them (or to do it) and reached out to their personalities. Several properties in modern condominium units, the homes had two aspects in common. They were modest in size as well as veritable treasure chests of memories of their owners or lovingly created.

More than being awed, as we often are, the aspect we look forward to with each visit is to hearing our subject relate the story of his or her life. We will sit with them one homeowners this year, that's for sure.

HOME/BODY SURRENDER

Lily Montoverde

"There are very few reminders of show biz in the Greenhills residence of Regal Films producer Lily Montoverde. The only visible movie memento is an oil painting of the young Lily, circa 1965, made by the owner of Sogno Advertising (right). "We painted Regal's glass billboards in the 1960s," she recalled. Few people know that she produces plays (the piano. She has a baby grand in the first floor sala and another one on the second floor that's teeming with portraits in red frames (above).

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Chef Rob and Sunshine Pengson

Chef couple Rob and Sunshine Pengson built their kitchen according to their needs and specifications. It boasts the latest gadgets in culinary technology, befitting the degustation concept. "We have stuff for molecular gastronomy," he explained. They also designed the hanging rack which shows off their extensive collection of pots and pans (above). Some of the pieces in the living room were from their old apartments, while others were gifts from relatives. The koi fish painting is by Ramon Diaz (below).

MMFF 2011 MOST AWARDED MOVIE
BEST PICTURE
Gatpuno Villegas Cultural Award * Best Director * Best Supporting Actor
Best Screenplay * Best Cinematography * Best Editing * Best Production Design
Best Sound Editing * Best Musical Score * Best Original Theme Song
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Republic of the Philippines
National Irrigation Administration
HINOBAAN-CANDIJAY-ALFONSO CASTAÑEDA (HINCAFON) IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT OFFICE
Bayanan II, Candijay City, Province of Bohol

INVITATION TO BID
Repair & Rehabilitation of ANLAGAN-TINTUBAN CIC
FIRM ENG'G ESTIMATE: ₱3,031,000.00

1. The NIA-HINCAFON IMO office now invites bids for civil works for the Repair & Rehabilitation of ANLAGAN-TINTUBAN CIC located at Tintuban, Candijay, Province of Bohol. Completion of the said civil works is within one hundred eighty (180) calendar days.
2. Interested bidders may obtain further information from NIA-HINCAFON IMO office, Bids & Awards Committee at Bayanan II, Candijay City and inspect the Bidding Documents during office hours from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
3. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders at the office address above upon presentation of Letter of Intent (LOI), Income Tax Return (ITR) with Computerized Annual Tax Declaration (CATD) and Certificate of Registration (COR) issued by the BIR, and payment of the amount of ₱3,000.00 (Three Thousand pesos (Php 3,000.00)) only.
4. A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on January 19, 2012, 1:00 p.m. at the office address above, which shall be open only to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.
5. Bids must be delivered to the above office address on or before January 26, 2012, 1:00 p.m. Bids will be opened on the same date at 1:01 p.m. in the NIA Conference Room. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.
6. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders or his duly authorized representatives who choose to attend. Late bids shall not be accepted.
7. The NIA-HINCAFON IMO office reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders, and to waive any defect in any bid submitted. In the case that the project will be re-bidded, the same shall be done.

(Sgd.) ARLENDO A. BALAGAN
BAC Chairman

Republic of the Philippines
National Irrigation Administration
CANDIJAY-ALFONSO CASTAÑEDA IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT OFFICE
Bayanan II, Candijay City, Province of Bohol

INVITATION TO BID
Repair & Rehabilitation of MATTONG CIC
FIRM ENG'G ESTIMATE: ₱3,615,000.00

1. The NIA-Candijay-Alfonso Castañeda Irrigation Management Office (NIA-CACIMO) now invites sealed bids for the Repair & Rehabilitation of MATTONG CIC with approved budget for the contract (ABC) in the amount of Three Million Six Hundred Fifteen Thousand pesos only (₱3,615,000.00). Bidders should have completed, within the last five (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a single contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible contract is limited to Irrigation Canal Lining Construction.
3. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders at the office address above upon presentation of Letter of Intent (LOI), Income Tax Return (ITR) with Computerized Annual Tax Declaration (CATD) and Certificate of Registration (COR) issued by the BIR, and payment of the amount of ₱3,000.00 (Three Thousand pesos (Php 3,000.00)) only.
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6. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders or his duly authorized representatives who choose to attend. Late bids shall not be accepted.
7. The NIA-HINCAFON IMO office reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders, and to waive any defect in any bid submitted. In the case that the project will be re-bidded, the same shall be done.

(Sgd.) ARLENDO A. BALAGAN
BAC Chairman

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cebu
CARLOS HILADO MEMORIAL STATE COLLEGE
Talisay, Cebu
Telefax No. (032) 493-0149

NOTICE OF SEARCH AND CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Board of Trustees of Carlos Hilado Memorial State College (CHMSC) now publicly announces that the Search for Presidency of the College is now open. Interested applicants and/or nominees are invited to send their formal application to the Search Committee for Presidency.

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Natural born citizen of the Philippines;
2. At least 40 years old at the time of application;
3. Holder of an earned doctorate degree from a reputable higher education institution;
4. Must have at least five (5) years managerial experience in a higher education institution or in private, for at least five (5) years;
5. Must be qualified to hold a position in the Philippine Government;
6. Must possess such other qualifications as may be prescribed by the Board of Trustees in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS:

1. Name of applicant/s must be submitted to:
   Bernadette Ronnie S. Lizardo, Ph.D.
   Chairperson, Committee on Public Education
   Province of Cebu
   4th Floor, Capitol Building, Cebu City
   Telefax No. (032) 255-4054
2. Detailed curriculum vitae, signed under oath;
3. Duly signed Personal Data Sheet (PDS) with at least one (1) picture in the Civil Service Office;
4. Proposed Vision, Mission, and Development Goals for the Carlos Hilado College;
5. Certificate of Eligibility from the following government agencies, obtained not more than six (6) months from the date of application, indicating the applicant has no pending administrative and/or criminal case:
   - Ombudsman
   - Civil Service Commission (CSC)
   - Sandiganbayan (SB)
   - Regional Trial Court (RTC)
   - Integrated Bar of the Philippines
   - Professional Regulation Commission
   - Professional Regulatory Board (where applicant is presently employed)
6. Birth certificate issued by the National Statistics Office (NSO);
7. Marriage certificate, if married (must be issued by the National Statistics Office);
8. Certificate of Physical Fitness issued by a duly licensed government physician;
9. Certificate of Medical Fitness issued by a duly licensed government physician stating that the applicant is currently undergoing treatment for mental illness or drug addiction;
10. Result of latest psychiatric examination conducted by a duly licensed government physician stating that the applicant is not suffering from any mental illness or drug addiction;
11. Duly accomplished Oath of Undertaking;
12. Duly accomplished Oath of Office;
13. Other pertinent documents that may be submitted by the applicant.

NOTE: An applicant who does not meet any of the aforementioned minimum qualifications and submits untrue and/or deficient supporting documents shall be disqualified from the search process.

The above-mentioned documents must be submitted in one (1) original and six (6) unofficial copies on or before **March 30, 2012** by way of the following:

ATTY. JACOB G. HONGO & CHRISTOPHER	**DR. BENILDA V. ESPINOSA**
Chairperson, Search Committee	Chairperson, Search Committee
Chairperson, Board of Trustees	Chairperson, Committee on Education
Carlos Hilado College	Carlos Hilado College
Bronzeville, Talisay City	Bronzeville, Talisay City

OR

Ms. Grace A. Sabanal	**Atty. Stephen A. De La Cruz**
Member, Search Committee	Member, Search Committee
Carlos Hilado College	Carlos Hilado College
Bronzeville, Talisay City	Bronzeville, Talisay City

OR

Atty. Stephen A. De La Cruz	**Ms. Grace A. Sabanal**
Member, Search Committee	Member, Search Committee
Carlos Hilado College	Carlos Hilado College
Bronzeville, Talisay City	Bronzeville, Talisay City

Only applications duly received by the Search Committee on or before the above-mentioned deadline shall be considered.

(Sgd.) ATTY. JACOB G. HONGO
Chairperson, Search Committee
Chairperson, Board of Trustees
Carlos Hilado College

Date: January 06, 2012

LEGAL NOTICE
EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT AMONG HEIRS

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the deceased SPOUSES LOURDES BALDONADO - BUSTAMANTE and REYNERIO BUSTAMANTE, SR. who died intestate on October 28, 1999 and on October 15, 2011 respectively had been extrajudicially settled by and among their children JESUS B. BUSTAMANTE, REYNERIO B. BUSTAMANTE, JR., JOSE B. BUSTAMANTE, MARIA CAMIDAD BUSTAMANTE-ARJONDO, REYNERIO B. BUSTAMANTE III and ANNE IN. GIBSON, UESLIE RAY B. GIBSON and CARMELA LEENEY B. GIBSON (collectively referred to as the HEIRS of the LATE DIANA BUSTAMANTE-GIBSON) as per Doc. No. 351; Page No. 21; Book No. XI; Series of 2011 executed before Quezon City Notary Public Atty. Cecilia C. Lumantas.

PBSP
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Committed to poverty reduction, **Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP)** is the largest corporate-led social development foundation in the Philippines. Through the years, our job has meant more than just the gift it gives before: that you can make a difference in other people's lives, and help you to fill in the fulfilling partnering in our 62,000 funded Living Initiatives and Mentoring in Center Communities program (TRUNC TRUNC is a technical assistance project for the National TB Program led by the Department of Health, and implemented in cooperation with various LGUs across the country.

DEPUTY CHIEF OF PARTY

The Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP) will provide technical leadership in the form of specialists working to enhance TB policy and finance, improved service delivery and increased demand for TB services. The DCOP's major accountability shall focus on providing support in the field teams to efficiently delivering TB DIC technical assistance packages to the target LGUs. The DCOP will assist the Chief of Party in training, coordinating, and reporting information on project activities. He/she shall oversee the reporting responsibilities to the USAID DOH, and other project stakeholders, including among others, quarterly and end-of-week reporting. Term of assignment shall be from January 2012 until September 30, 2013.

Qualifications:

Minimum degree (PhD, MPH, or MD) in public health or related fields with specific background in project management. Minimum of 7 years of experience in project management in a health or related international NGO or international multilateral organization. Demonstrated technical abilities in monitoring and evaluation in TB and other infectious disease programming. Thorough understanding of the public health system, strategies in organizational development, project maintenance, and resource between technical and administrative staff. Conversant with health policy and financing issues relative to health service delivery, particularly TB. Ability to oversee productivity and accountability with government agencies, NGOs, private sector groups, USAID, GFs and donor organizations.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

Interested applicants are requested to email his / her curriculum vitae to **jagallamora@pbsp.org.ph** or **jamie.gutierrez@gmail.com** on or before January 13, 2012. No telephone/courier please. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

IMMEDIATE HIRING!!!

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All resumés must be personally submitted at the

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PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF CAPIZ
City of Roxas, Province of Capiz

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Capiz thru its **BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE** invites interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

Name of Contract : 1 Lot (24 Station) Digital Multimedia Instruction Laboratory
Approved Budget for the Contract/ABC : ₱1,000,000.00
Source of Fund : PDAP Cong. Antonio Del Rosario

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Eligibility Documents	January 09, 2012
2. Issuance of Bid Documents	January 09, 2012
3. Pre-Bid Conference	January 24, 2012 / 10:00 a.m.
4. Opening of Bids	February 08, 2012 / 10:00 a.m.

1. In order to qualify for participation in the public bidding, bidders should conform to all eligibility requirements as prescribed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act 9184.
2. The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility forms at BAC Office, Provincial Capitol, Roxas City upon payment of the prescribed non-refundable fee of P2,500 / Fifty Five Thousand Pesos (P55,000.00).
3. Bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements & technical proposal, financial proposals in two separate envelopes in the bid boxes before the deadline of submission of bids.
4. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in a form of cash and must be dropped at the BAC drop box on or before the closing date on February 08, 2012 / 10:00 a.m.
5. The BAC Committee reserves no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.
6. The BAC Committee reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not to award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of the invitation.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO F. APALATA
Chairman
BAC Committee

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(Beside Department of Tourism Library)
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Republic of the Philippines
BUKIDNON STATE UNIVERSITY
Malaybalay City

IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9500

Rule I
PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

Section 1. Promulgation. The Implementing Rules and Regulations are promulgated pursuant to Sec. 42 of Republic Act No. 9500 (RA 9500) otherwise known as "An Act Converting the Bukidnon State College (BSC) into a State University to be known as the Bukidnon State University, and Appropriating Funds Therefor".

Section 2. Short Title. This Rules and Regulations shall be known as the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9500 of the Bukidnon State University.

Rule II
DEFINITION OF TERMS

Section 1. Definition of Terms.

Whenever used in any part of the following words or phrases shall mean or shall also include:

a. Act – refers to Republic Act No. 9500 otherwise known as "An Act Converting the Bukidnon State College (BSC) into a State University to be known as the Bukidnon State University, and Appropriating Funds Therefor".

b. Academic Freedom – is the right of the University to determine for itself, on academic grounds, who may teach, what may be taught, how it shall be taught, and who may be admitted to study. It is the freedom of the University to formulate its curriculum, to choose its faculty, and to admit students to the degrees it confers.

c. Administrative Officer – refers to the President, Vice-Presidents, Chancellor, Deans, Directors, Heads of Offices and Units, and other officials of the University who are charged with the duty of implementing the policies, rules and regulations of the University, as well as administrative matters, discharged by the faculty and other employees of the University.

d. Alumni – refers to the body composed of all graduates of the University.

e. Appointing Authority – refers to the President of the University who is authorized by the Board of Regents to appoint personnel to the University.

f. Board of Regents – refers to the governing body of the University as provided in Section 5 of the Act.

g. Bukidnon State University – refers to the State University created under the Act.

h. Campus – refers to the land, buildings, and other facilities owned, leased, or otherwise used by the University.

i. Campus Police – refers to the security force of the University.

j. Chancellor – refers to the Chief Executive Officer of the University who is appointed by the Board of Regents.

k. Civil Service Commission – refers to the Philippine Civil Service Commission.

l. Civil Service Law – refers to Republic Act No. 6656 otherwise known as "An Act Protecting Security of Tenure and Due Process of Employees in the Civil Service, Granting Additional Vacation Leave with Pay, Amending for the Purpose Section Sixty-Four of Republic Act Numbered Sixty-Seven Hundred Forty-Four, Otherwise Known as the Civil Service Law, and Appropriating Funds Therefor".

m. Civil Service Rules – refers to the Civil Service Rules and Regulations implementing the Civil Service Law.

n. Code of Conduct – refers to the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees (RA 6713).

o. Collective Bargaining – refers to the process of negotiation between the University and the duly recognized employees' organization concerning terms and conditions of employment.

p. Collective Bargaining Agreement – refers to the agreement between the University and the duly recognized employees' organization concerning terms and conditions of employment.

q. Commission – refers to the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and whenever it is the appropriate body to act on matters relating to the University.

r. Committee – refers to any duly constituted body of the University.

s. Consultation – refers to the meeting between the University and the duly recognized employees' organization concerning terms and conditions of employment.

t. Contract of Service – refers to the agreement between the University and a person employed as an independent contractor.

u. Contractor – refers to a person who undertakes a contract of work, manually or intellectual, for the University, but who is not employed by the University.

v. Department – refers to any of the academic units of the University.

w. Dismissal – refers to the termination of employment by the University for cause as provided by law.

x. Employee – refers to any person employed by the University.

y. Employees' Association – refers to the duly recognized employees' organization of the University.

z. Faculty – refers to the collective body composed of all persons holding academic rank in the University.

aa. Faculty Association – refers to the duly recognized faculty organization of the University.

bb. Faculty Member – refers to any person who is employed by the University as an academic employee and who holds an academic rank.

cc. Fringe Benefits – refers to the additional compensation, apart from salary, received by an employee from the University.

dd. Grievance – refers to any work-related complaint, claim, or dispute between the University and any employee or group of employees.

ee. Grievance Machinery – refers to the mechanism established by the University for the adjustment and resolution of grievances.

ff. Grievance Procedure – refers to the formal steps to be taken by the parties concerned in the settlement of grievances.

gg. Instruction – refers to the process of teaching, training and developing persons in order to prepare them for useful employment and for participation in the development of society.

hh. Jurisdiction – refers to the power of the University to hear and decide cases brought before it.

ii. Labor Code – refers to Presidential Decree No. 442 otherwise known as the Labor Code of the Philippines, as amended.

jj. Labor Organization – refers to any union or association of employees which exists in whole or in part for the purpose of collective bargaining or of dealing with employers concerning terms and conditions of employment.

kk. Management Prerogative – refers to the right of the University to regulate, according to its own discretion and judgment, all aspects of employment, including hiring, work assignments, working methods, time, place and manner of work, tools to be used, processes to be followed, supervision of workers, working regulations, transfer, promotion, dismissal, and suspension of employees, and the discipline, except those which are limited by law.

ll. Non-Academic Personnel – refers to any person employed by the University who is not a member of the faculty.

mm. Office – refers to any of the administrative units of the University.

nn. Officer – refers to any person who is appointed by the Board of Regents, the President, or any other duly authorized officer of the University to perform managerial or supervisory functions.

oo. Open Shop – refers to the type of employment where employees are free to join or not to join any labor organization.

pp. Organization – refers to any group of employees which is formed for the purpose of collective bargaining or for dealing with employers concerning terms and conditions of employment.

qq. Parties in Interest – refers to the employee or group of employees who present a grievance and the person or persons who are responsible for the action or decision complained of.

rr. Personnel – refers to all employees of the University.

ss. President – refers to the Chief Executive Officer of the University who is appointed by the Board of Regents.

tt. Probationary Employee – refers to an employee who is employed by the University on probationary basis.

uu. Program – refers to the curriculum offered in a discipline leading to a degree, diploma or certificate.

vv. Regular Employee – refers to an employee who has been employed by the University on permanent basis.

ww. Reinstatement – refers to the restoration of an employee to his former position or to an equivalent position without loss of seniority rights.

xx. Retirement – refers to the withdrawal of an employee from service with the right to receive benefits under the University's retirement plan.

yy. Security of Tenure – refers to the right of an employee not to be dismissed from the service except for cause as provided by law.

zz. Separation – refers to the termination of employment by the University for any cause other than dismissal.

aaa. Student – refers to any person who is officially enrolled in the University.

bbb. Student Association – refers to the duly recognized student organization of the University.

ccc. Suspension – refers to the temporary withdrawal of an employee from the service for a specified period of time.

ddd. Temporary Employee – refers to an employee who is employed by the University on temporary basis.

eee. Termination – refers to the dismissal, separation, retirement, or expiration of the term of employment of an employee.

fff. Tuition – refers to the amount charged by the University for instruction.

ggg. Union – refers to any labor organization.

hhh. Union Activity – refers to any activity engaged in by the union or its officers, members, or representatives in connection with the union.

iii. Union Dues – refers to the periodic payments made by the members of the union to the union.

jjj. Union Security – refers to any arrangement between the University and the union whereby membership in the union is required as a condition for employment or continued employment with the University.

kkk. Vice-President – refers to any of the Vice-Presidents of the University who are appointed by the Board of Regents.

lll. Visiting Faculty – refers to a faculty member who is employed by the University on temporary basis.

mmm. Visiting Lecturer – refers to a person who is employed by the University on temporary basis to teach a course or subject.

nnn. Voluntary Arbitration – refers to the mechanism by which the parties to a labor dispute may agree to submit their case to a voluntary arbitrator or panel of voluntary arbitrators for the resolution of their dispute.

ooo. Voluntary Arbitrator – refers to any person accepted or chosen by the parties to a labor dispute to hear and decide their case.

ppp. Wages – refers to the remuneration or earnings, however designated, capable of being expressed in terms of money, whether fixed or ascertained on a time, task, piece, or commission basis, or other method of calculating the same, which is payable by the University to an employee under a written or unwritten contract of employment for work done or to be done, or for services rendered or to be rendered.

qqq. Work Stoppage – refers to any temporary stoppage of work by the employees as a result of a labor dispute or as a result of the failure of the parties to reach an agreement.

Rule III
CREATION OF THE BUKIDNON STATE UNIVERSITY

Section 1. Conversion of Bukidnon State College into Bukidnon State University. Pursuant to Section 1 of the Act, Bukidnon State College is hereby converted into a State University to be known as the Bukidnon State University.

Section 2. Succession. The Bukidnon State University shall succeed to all the rights, powers, assets, liabilities, obligations and penalties of the Bukidnon State College.

Section 3. Transfer of Assets and Liabilities. All assets and liabilities of the Bukidnon State College are hereby transferred to the Bukidnon State University.

Section 4. Transfer of Employees. All employees of the Bukidnon State College are hereby transferred to the Bukidnon State University without loss of seniority rights and privileges.

Section 5. Transfer of Records. All records of the Bukidnon State College are hereby transferred to the Bukidnon State University.

Rule IV
GENERAL POWERS

Section 1. Administration. The University shall have the power to administer and hold in trust for the University any real or personal property given to the University by the Republic of the Philippines or by any person or entity, and to receive donations, bequests, and gifts for the University, subject to the provisions of existing laws.

Section 2. Powers and Duties of the Board of Regents. The Board shall have the following specific powers and duties in addition to its general powers:

a. To determine the policies of the University;
b. To exercise such supervision and control over the University as may be necessary to carry out the purposes and functions of the University;
c. To appoint the President of the University and, upon the recommendation of the President, the Vice-Presidents, Chancellor, Deans, Directors, Heads of Offices and Units, and other officials of the University;
d. To appoint such other officers and employees as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the University, and to fix their salaries and other emoluments, subject to the provisions of the Civil Service Law and Rules and other applicable laws;
e. To determine the number of faculty members, academic rank, and the salaries and other emoluments of the faculty members, subject to the provisions of the Civil Service Law and Rules and other applicable laws;
f. To grant, upon the recommendation of the President, tenure to the faculty members and other employees of the University, subject to the provisions of the Civil Service Law and Rules and other applicable laws;
g. To grant, upon the recommendation of the President, sabbatical leaves with pay to faculty members and other employees of the University, subject to the provisions of the Civil Service Law and Rules and other applicable laws;
h. To grant, upon the recommendation of the President, leaves of absence without pay to faculty members and other employees of the University, subject to the provisions of the Civil Service Law and Rules and other applicable laws;
i. To grant, upon the recommendation of the President, honorary degrees, honorary fellowships, honorary memberships, honorary professorships, honorary chairs, and other honorary awards to persons who have rendered outstanding service to the University, to the community, to the nation, or to humanity at large, and to withdraw, revoke, or annul the same for cause;
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ddddd. To grant, upon the recommendation of the President, honorary degrees, honorary fellowships, honorary memberships, honorary professorships, honorary chairs, and other honorary awards to persons who have rendered outstanding service to the University

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION

Building I, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Direct Line: +632) 844-1618 Fax No.: +632) 844-1619

INVITATION TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following:

Project Name	Bangsamoro Sections for Midanao Project Cluster-I: (BPC) Integrated LNG Project (ILP) Mini-Bid Document 1 and Support Services
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Three Million Four Hundred Ninety-Five Thousand Pesos (Php3,495,000.00), inclusive of all applicable taxes
Completion Period	One (1) year, non-renewable for another year at PNOC EC's option based on the same terms and conditions
Project Site	NW-1, Malampaya, Cornbinanga Bilaggay

Prospective bidders should have completed, within five (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Bidding is open to Filipino citizens, partnerships, corporations, cooperatives, or joint ventures with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant reciprocal rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, partnerships, or corporations. Bids shall be valid for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of the opening of bids. Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference(s), Bid Evaluation, Post-qualification, and Award of the Contract shall be governed by the guidelines embodied in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184.

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Issuance of Bid Documents	January 6, 2012 to January 19, 2012
Pre-Bid Conference	January 17, 2012, 10:00 A.M. PNOC EC Malampaya Project Operations NW-1 Malampaya, Cornbinanga Bilaggay
Submission and Opening of Bids	January 19, 2012, 2:00 P.M. PNOC EC Malampaya Project Operations NW-1 Malampaya, Cornbinanga Bilaggay
Bid Evaluation	Three months in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the revised IRR of RA 9184
Post-qualification	
Notice of Award	

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the above address and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Fifteen Thousand Pesos (Php15,000.00). It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (**www.philgeps.gov.ph**) and PNOC EC's website (**www.pnoc.ec.com.ph**), provided that Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids. These will be posted and purchased the Bidding Documents in the previous Bidding dates for bids.

For further information, please contact:

PNOC EC Procurement Section
Unit No. Number 1, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No.: (02) 844-1618 to 844-1619 Fax No.: (02) 840-1619
Email: nshinez@pnoc.ec.com.ph

PNOC EC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders. PNOC EC assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(SGD.)
ENGR. LEANDRO M. MENDOZA
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(BAC Res. # 5-1, 2012)

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
COLE-NCR Building, 851 Trabajo St.
Manila, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following employers/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Nationality	Position
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC. Unit 1901 Antonio Centre, 31 Annapolis St. Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila	Agnes Vanes Turkish	Investment Analyst
EVE KING (PHILS) INC. Unit 4B-C 4/F A. Soriano Bldg. Corner Ayala and Salcedo Makati, Makati City	Timothy Phillip Wilson/ American	Director for Professional Services and Support
BRIGHTSIDE MANAGEMENT INC. 39F BDO Bldg. Ayala Ave. Makati, Makati City	Chang Hun Tae Malaysian	Manager, Operations
LONGACRE, INC. 29 One West Square, Alabang Hill, Muntinlupa City	Angela Joy Bautista Demerain/ Filipino	Senior Data Analyst
HAYSEY PHILIPPINES, INC. 6/F Corporate and Industry Plaza, Commerce Ave. Alabang Hill, Muntinlupa City	Fatma Erdoslan Moroccan	Trainer/ Language Assistant
LAYSTRIN PHILIPPINES INC. 21 One West Square, Alabang Hill, Muntinlupa City	Jiro Shimamoto Japan	Consultant
TRIPLE-EIGHT STRATEGIES HOTEL GROUP INC. 3/F Star Cruises Centre, 100 Commerce Avenue, Newport City, Pasay City	Valentina Dupree German	Vice President, IT & Engineering
EASTWOOD BIDEZ, INC. 12/F JCG Tower, 3051 Ayala Ave. Makati City	Nini Alexander Bidez/ American	Security Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned applications please communicate with the Regional Director.

EVALUATOR
In the processing of Alien Employment Permit Application/s, the Labor Employment Permit Evaluator on the January 6, 2012 the name of company with **No Application** should not appear here or Overlook Services Limited Unregistered in CITIBANK, N.A. is not or not published.

ATTY. ROMEO C. LIBRANDA
Regional Director

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT NO. 4-A
DMMC Compound, Project 4, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

Center for Health Development No. 4-A, DMMC Compound, Project 4, Quezon City, will conduct Public Bidding on the following schedule:

PRE-BID CONFERENCE

PRINTING OF IEC MATERIALS – January 13, 2012 (10 A.M.)

SUBMISSION OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND OPENING OF BIDS

The requirement for eligibility of prospective bidders must be personally submitted to CHD 4A, BAC Secretariat by the duly authorized representative at the following schedules:

PRINTING OF IEC MATERIALS – January 20, 2012 (10 A.M.)

(Approved Budget for the Contract - P 480 (FB NO.2012-01-001)

The Bids and Awards Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any defects or formality therein and accept bids considered complying and most advantageous to the government.

For further inquiries, please contact Dr. Moises N. Peralta, Jr. – Supply Officer III with Tel. Nos. 9 (046) 415 438-06-71.

(Sgd) CORAZON I. FLORES, MD, MPH, CESE
BAC Chairperson

Republic of the Philippines
TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY
Romulo Blvd. San Vicente, Tarlac City
Telefax No. (045) 982-1024
website: www.tsu.edu.ph

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE PURCHASE OF MMR Laboratory Supply and Installation of Hot Kitchen Furniture and Equipment

The Tarlac State University, through its duly constituted Committee on Bids (TSU-COB), invites registered and eligible suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following project:

Name of Project	PURCHASE OF MMR LABORATORY SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF HOT KITCHEN FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT
Approved Budget for the Contract	P 4,000,000.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least fifty (50) of the amount of the contract. The Eligibility Documents as per item 5.2 of the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

All qualified bidders shall undergo Eligibility Determination and Screening, Site Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conferences, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is shown as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of the Documents	Starting January 7, 2012
2. Pre-Bid Conference	January 13, 2012 @ 10:00 a.m. Venue: Audio Visual Room, 2nd Floor, Admin. Building, Tarlac State University, Tarlac City
3. Receipt and Opening of Bid	January 20, 2012 @ 10:00 a.m. Venue: Audio Visual Room, 2nd Floor, Admin. Building, Tarlac State University, Tarlac City

Bid Documents with the available copy of corporate certificate upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Thousand pesos (P5,000.00) to the TSU Cashier.

The Tarlac State University reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects therein and to accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

For further information, please refer to:
Mr. Manuel S. de Guzman
Vice Chairman
TSU-COB
(045) 982-1024

Approved by:
Engr. DR. ARMANDO A. ESPINO
BAC Chairman

Republic of the Philippines
TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY
Romulo Blvd. San Vicente, Tarlac City
Telefax No. (045) 982-1024
website: www.tsu.edu.ph

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE PURCHASE OF ENGINEERING LABORATORY EQUIPMENT

The Tarlac State University, through its duly constituted Committee on Bids (TSU-COB), invites registered and eligible suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following project:

Name of Project	PURCHASE OF ENGINEERING LABORATORY EQUIPMENT
Approved Budget for the Contract	P 1,000,000.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 3 years with an amount of at least fifty (50) of the amount of the contract. The Eligibility Documents as per item 5.2 of the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

All qualified bidders shall undergo Eligibility Determination and Screening, Site Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conferences, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is shown as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of the Documents	Starting January 7, 2012
2. Pre-Bid Conference	January 13, 2012 @ 10:00 a.m. Venue: Audio Visual Room, 2nd Floor, Admin. Building, Tarlac State University, Tarlac City
3. Receipt and Opening of Bid	January 20, 2012 @ 10:00 a.m. Venue: Audio Visual Room, 2nd Floor, Admin. Building, Tarlac State University, Tarlac City

Bid Documents with the available copy of corporate certificate upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Thousand pesos (P5,000.00) to the TSU Cashier.

The Tarlac State University reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects therein and to accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

For further information, please refer to:
Mr. Manuel S. de Guzman
Vice Chairman
TSU-COB
(045) 982-1024

Approved by:
Engr. DR. ARMANDO A. ESPINO
BAC Chairman

City Government of Dumaguete
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
City Hall, Dumaguete City

INVITATION TO BID

The CITY GOVERNMENT OF DUMAGUETE invites PHOPS registered contractors to apply for the following items:

Name of Projects	Approved Budget for the Contract	Bidding Times		Price of Bid Documents (Non-refundable)
		Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline / Receiving Bids	
Janitorial Services	P 1,000,000.00	Jan. 11, 2012 10:00 AM	Jan. 24, 2012 10:00 AM	1,000.00
Security Services	P 1,500,000.00	Jan. 11, 2012 10:00 AM	Jan. 24, 2012 10:00 AM	1,500.00

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the office of the City Mayor-Procurement, Acquisition and Award Division (PAAD) and inspect the Bidding Documents from **January 6, 2012** to **January 24, 2012, 8:00 AM** to **5:00 PM.**

The bidder shall submit and deliver his offer/proposal in the prescribed form, duly accomplished, whereby the proposal of the Financial Proposal shall be evaluated to determine lowest calculated. Bids and bidders shall not be allowed to withdraw single envelope, in the minimum amount of the aforementioned bid security.

For more information, please call the Procurement, Acquisition and Award Division at Telephone No. **(035) 225-2753.**

The CITY GOVERNMENT OF DUMAGUETE reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all/bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) Atty. Mario S. Aurelio
BAC Chairman

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
3F Andanan Bldg. E. Rizal Ave., Calamba City
Trabajo Direct: (049) 545-0155
Telefax No.: (049) 545-0154
website: blr.dole.gov.ph

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT (AEP)

Notice is hereby given that the following corporations/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

	Name and Address of Company/ Employer	Name and Citizenship of Foreign National Working	Position and Brief Description of Employment
1.	PEOPLEASIA, INC. Unit 3, Rosario, Cavite	Ms. Jeffrey Rosario Manalo/ American	Executive Director
2.	EURO CONTRACTING CO., Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Samuel Martinez/ Spanish	Consultant — Business Solutions
3.	MITSUBISHI CATERPILLAR FORKLIFT (PHILS.), INC. Mitsubishi Bldg., Nav. Base, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	Mr. Yoshimitsu Ueno/ Japanese	President
4.	TOYOTA AUTOPARTS MANUFACTURING (PHILS.), INC. Brgy. Pulong Sta. Cruz, Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay	Mr. Shinji Hirao/ Japanese	President
5.	TOYOTA AUTOPARTS MANUFACTURING (PHILS.), INC. Brgy. Pulong Sta. Cruz, Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay	Mr. Masaaki Kawamoto/ Japanese	Department Manager — Engineering & Purchasing
6.	TOYOTA AUTOPARTS MANUFACTURING (PHILS.), INC. Brgy. Pulong Sta. Cruz, Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay	Mr. Takahiro Takagi/ Japanese	Section Manager — Engineering Division

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, JR., CESO III
Regional Director

To avail of free job referral, placement and employment guidance services, visit the nearest Public Employment Service Office (PESO) or log-on at www.peso.dole.gov.ph

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Trilogy 202 Ventilator with serial number TV01103909, manufactured by Philips Respironics, USA was illegally acquired last December 3, 2011 from Medical Services of America, Inc. the exclusive distributor of the said equipment in the Philippines.

If said ventilator is being offered to you, please advise Ms. Aurora J. Deeja at telephone numbers 358-2174, 332-6907, 332-8944 or cell phone number 0917-8431647.

OBITUARIES

"Even if your ears will remind us
We are made our lives sublime,
And departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time"
— A Psalm of Life
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

In Memory of

ROBERT VISWANATHAN CHANDRAN

May 30, 1959 – January 7, 2009

On his Fourth Death Anniversary

The Management and Staff of Franklin Baker Company of the Philippines (FBCOP), together with the family, request relatives and friends to remember him in their prayers.

San Pablo Diocese Cathedral Parish of St. Paul, the Firm Hermit – San Pablo City	6:00 PM
FBCOP Compound – Brgy. Concepcion, Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur	8:00 AM
Don Bosco Parish, Makati	9:30 AM

Death Notice

MONICA MCBEAN VINOYA
February 13, 1970 – December 06, 2011
Died in the age of 31

She is survived by husband, Ronald Vinoya; children, Glenan Jaquez, Glenn Kendrix and Dyanne Nowelz; mother, Dra. Josefa Antonia Mcbean; sisters, Rosalinda and Rosemarie Mcbean.

Her remains lie at #74, BRC Duplex, Ramp Ramp St., Kamakaisa, Valenzuela City.

Interment will be at Veterans Memorial Park, Malanday, Valenzuela City, January 7, 2012 at 1 pm

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CLASSIFIEDS

AKCUPI joins world dog body

THE ALIGN KENNEL CLUB UNION OF THE Philippines, Inc. (AKCUPI) has further widened its bonds ones in the international dog community with its membership in the elite International Kennel Union (IKU), one of the most prestigious and largest dog federations in the world.

AKCUPI chairman and president Kenny G. Baltazar said the club's membership in the IKU reinforces the club's emerging and influential role in the Asia-Pacific region after being appointed by the Federacion Canina Internacional (FCI) based in Spain as head of its Asia-Pacific Branch in 2009.

Based in Russia, IKU has member-clubs in Europe, North, Central and South America, and Asia-Pacific. Its members hold regular international all-breed championship shows, exchange information regarding dog breeding, responsible dog ownership, and other concerns based on mutual cooperation.

Aside from IKU, AKCUPI is also a member of FCI (Spain), the biggest and most prestigious international purebred registering dog club in the world, Kennel Club Union of Asia (KCUA), and the Union of Asia Kennel Clubs (UAKC). Since its inception in March 2008, the club's purebred dog registration has soared to more than 100,000 as of December 31, 2011. AKCUPI's headquarters is at 2/F Dalcon Bldg., Barangay Poblacion, Quezon City with tel. nos. 3736987-88, with e-mail add at admin@akcupi.com and website at www.akcupi.com.

MAY TRAINING 2012
Immigration Board
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NFA ships emergency rice supply to Batanes

THE NFA KIMBA FOOD AUTHORITY has shipped a total of 2,000 bags of rice to Batanes to effectively augment the food security inventory in the province.

According to NFA, the emergency rice shipment was made in the wake of the reported dwindling of rice inventories because the province is cut off from the mainland by the difficulty in transporting rice through the normal shipping route that crossed the Balintang Channel.

The difficulty in crossing the Balintang Channel has discouraged the commercial traders to continue with their regular rice shipments.

To offset the rice transport, the NFA hired MV SAVERS, a commercial ship which, unfortunately, also experienced difficulty in crossing Balintang Channel and therefore had to block at Calayan Island.

As part of emergency protocols, on December 30, the NFA through the Department of Agriculture coordinated with the Department of National Defense to utilize some 200 bags of rice in the provincial warehouse of the 5-139 of the Philippine Air Force.

The rice will temporarily address the tightness in supply problems until the main shipment arrives on January 1 when the MV SAVERS had finally crossed Balintang Channel.

The NFA emphasized that unfavorable weather conditions do not pose any problem to the supply of commercial rice in the area.

In the case of Batanes, the agency will remain committed to supply additional buffer stocks as long as there is a problem in the supply of commercial rice in the area.

UNATEX EMPLOYEES DO "ZUMBA!"

Employees of RGC Group of Companies, makers of world-class Unatex foam and mattress products, expressed their creativity when the "Zumba Fever" is all about. This calorie-burning, Latin-inspired "dance and fitness party" called zumba, which is now being enjoyed and experienced by millions of people around the world, was organized by Divine Grace Casanova, Pinky Chang-Bosaga, in order to promote health and wellness among the many employees of the RGC Group of Companies. Held at the Roast Art Center in Greenhills, San Juan City, the employees moved and groomed to the beat of danceable tunes, the hallmark of any "Zumba" event, and as the name implies, and when they say, and have together with their other co-workers so that they would remain healthy and strong both in mind and body. Above are the employees in their most "Zumba" unique dance routines.